

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
MOUNT ★ VERNON

MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION

2015 ANNUAL REPORT





MOUNT VERNON
LADIES' ASSOCIATION

2015 Annual Report

COVER IMAGE: *L'HERMIONE*, A REPLICA OF THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE'S FRIGATE, DOCKS NEAR MOUNT VERNON AS PART OF ITS SUMMER VOYAGE ALONG THE EAST COAST. TO COMMEMORATE THE VISIT, MOËT-HENNESSY HELD A GALA AT MOUNT VERNON, NETTING \$150,000 TO BENEFIT THE ESTATE. (BUDDY SECOR)

From the Regent



Throughout his lifetime, George Washington sought constant improvements—whether through self-education, by evolving his farming and business practices, or by placing finishing touches on his beloved home. As he wrote in a letter to the Marquis de Lafayette, “I love to indulge the contemplation of human nature in a progressive state of improvement and melioration...”

In reflecting on our 2015 accomplishments, we see how Washington’s ingrained desire for self-improvement continues to guide and inspire our efforts to preserve his estate. Thanks to the generous support of our loyal donors, Mount Vernon preservation experts completed an ambitious slate of projects in the historic area throughout the year. Their detailed investigations of the Mansion roof and cupola prompted swift intervention to repair unexpected damage to both structures. In an unanticipated turn, they also uncovered 19th-century graffiti inside the cupola, helping us to consider anew how early guests experienced the estate.

Although these critical tasks are now complete, this important preservation work will continue into the future, buoyed by the generosity of Karen Buchwald Wright, who established an endowment for repairs in the historic area. We are deeply appreciative of her leadership in this area and are grateful to our supporters who contributed to the K.B.W. Challenge—a matching grant opportunity introduced at the end of the year to help fund our historic preservation efforts.

Apart from the work in the historic area during 2015, we also celebrated a second year of achievements at the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington. We formally launched our on-site leadership training program and quickly garnered recognition for this exciting new initiative. Through the generosity of David M. Rubenstein, we welcomed our first class of Mount Vernon Leadership Fellows, an elite group of rising college juniors who will take Washington’s leadership example back to their university campuses, and, ultimately, into their communities at large. After extensive review and consideration, we also laid the groundwork for significant improvements to our long-standing summer residential institutes for teachers.

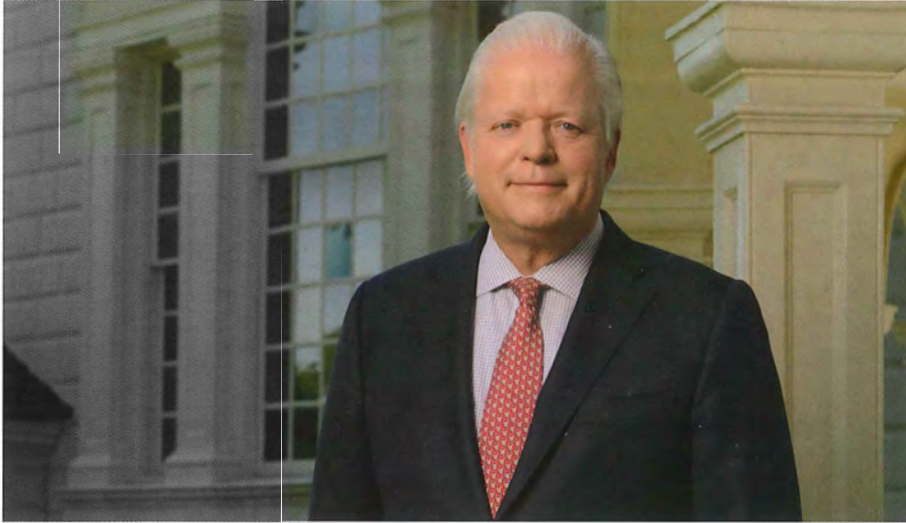
These important achievements complement an action-packed year in which we played host to world leaders, introduced new digital platforms, created new public events, and welcomed more than one million guests to experience Mount Vernon in person.

While we take pride in the accomplishments of the past year, our sights are set on the future. Like Washington, we will continue to look for new and better ways to advance our mission. On behalf of our Board and staff, I thank you most sincerely for partnering with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara B. Lucas". The script is elegant and cursive.

Barbara B. Lucas
Regent, The Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association

From the President



By any measure, 2015 was an extraordinary year for George Washington's Mount Vernon. I'm proud of what was accomplished by our talented and dedicated staff.

We welcomed nearly 1.1 million visitors to the estate, a healthy increase over 2014. Our always exceptional visitor experience was further bolstered by a number of new public programs that are highlighted in this Annual Report.

For the first time in our history, we were the beneficiary of two royal visits—from the United Kingdom and Spain—in a single year. HRH the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall toured the estate in March, and King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain visited in September. Moreover, Benjamin Netanyahu, prime minister of Israel, and his wife, Sara, came to Mount Vernon in November. These visits continued the long tradition of heads of state honoring George Washington by visiting his historic home.

In June, we celebrated the arrival of *L'Hermione*, a replica of the vessel that carried the Marquis de Lafayette to America in 1780, bringing with him news of the French support that became so instrumental in securing our nation's independence. The ship anchored for a night off Mount Vernon in recognition of the deep personal relationship between Washington and Lafayette, as well as the enduring ties between the United States and France.

We also made great strides in our efforts to tell Washington's story to America and the world through digital outreach. The number of unique visitors to the mountvernon.org website surpassed four million for the year, a four-fold increase in only three years. Citizens of the world visit our website to learn more about George Washington and Mount Vernon. I encourage you to join them in using this outstanding resource to view the compelling content and to learn the stories so important to all of us. Through our website and social media channels, we tell stories about George Washington and about our ongoing efforts to preserve his home to the highest standards for generations to come.

None of these initiatives would be possible without the support of our many donors for whom we are very grateful. Thank you for supporting our mission of preservation and education.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curt Viebranz".

Curt Viebranz
President and CEO



Our Mission

The mission of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association is to preserve, restore, and manage the estate of George Washington to the highest standards and educate visitors and people throughout the world about the life and legacies of George Washington, so that his example of character and leadership will continue to inform and inspire future generations.

Our Vision

We envision an America where all know and value the singular story of the Father of Our Country. Ever mindful of our past, we seek innovative and compelling ways to tell the story of George Washington so that his timeless and relevant life lessons are accessible to the world.

Our Values

WE ACT WITH INTEGRITY

In our work here at Mount Vernon, we value and promote honesty above all else.

WE HONOR THE INSTITUTION

We are stewards of an enduring legacy; Mount Vernon's future prosperity guides us in all we do.

WE ARE FORWARD-THINKING

We embrace innovative ways to tell Washington's story both on the estate and to an ever-changing world.

WE HAVE A BIAS FOR ACTION

We plan deliberately and act boldly.

WE EMBRACE CIVILITY

We strive to embody George Washington's courtesy and hospitality at all times and to all people.



Making History in 2015

In many ways, 2015 was a year of transformation at Mount Vernon. We reimagined legacy programs, publications, and outreach efforts. We were reminded, in many ways and in many moments, of George Washington's enduring global legacy. We hosted international dignitaries, and we also invited rising leaders to engage in impactful discussions against the backdrop of Washington's beautiful home. At the same time, we introduced new tools and technologies to reenvision the past and to enhance the experience of all of our guests.

Instead of merely looking outward, we also turned our attention inward. We took a closer look at important spaces inside the Mansion, using technology to arrive at more accurate interpretations. In doing so, we uncovered hidden secrets—from forgotten graffiti to tiny, yet illuminating fragments of wallpaper—which add to our understanding of these special places.

We made history in 2015. We reshaped the past and laid the groundwork for the future. We could not have done it without your support.

Adding More 'Stories' to the Mansion

Thanks to George Washington's detailed recordkeeping and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association's long-standing commitment to preservation, there is a lot we know about the construction of the Mansion. In 2015, however, we uncovered exciting new stories about the house—arguably the centerpiece of our collection.

The Mansion's cupola was the source of some of these fascinating discoveries. One of the home's most iconic features, the cupola was erected in 1778, when heavy principal rafter repairs were made to beef up the framing of the existing roof. Both the roof of the cupola and that earlier roof, raised in 1758, were covered with sturdy, water-resistant cypress shingles.

Today, the Historic Preservation and Collections staff faces challenges like the ones Washington experienced when trying to keep his home and the outbuildings weathertight. Despite the careful installation of high-quality materials, our roofs do occasionally leak during the course of their 25- to 50-year life spans, and relentless sun and rain will eventually wear a roof out.

With several outbuilding roofs coming to the end of their natural life cycles, we decided to simultaneously address a related and ongoing maintenance issue with roof paint. George Washington used high-quality oil-based paint on the roofs. With that long-lasting option no longer available, we have used modern paints to achieve the Mansion's trademark red color. Unfortunately, the paints available have required frequent stripping and repainting. To eliminate this maintenance headache, we chose to test an oil-based stain that is absorbed by the shingle and does not peel or require stripping. When the color begins to fade, a new application is made directly over the prior one, saving Mount Vernon time and money.

MAKING NEW DISCOVERIES

In 2015, we completed the monumental task of stripping the Mansion roof to prepare for this new staining process,

Our work on the roof yielded one additional surprise—evidence that the roof of the Mansion was not always its signature shade of red.

which will continue through 2018, making necessary repairs and applying the first two coats of stain. Through this work, we uncovered some unexpected problems with the cupola. Unlike the main roof, the cupola's flatter roof had deteriorated and needed to be replaced. Additionally, we discovered that the spire (or finial) of the cupola, a replica installed in 1996, was severely rotted. To address this concern, we fabricated an exact copy of the original, which was on the house from 1787 to 1946 and now resides in our architectural study collection. The work also led to the discovery of a trove of 19th-century graffiti preserved on the interior trim.

Our work on the roof yielded one additional surprise—evidence that the roof of the Mansion was not always its signature shade of red. The red color used on our roofs matches the paint preserved on an original shingle found decades ago in the Mansion attic. This shingle was



MOUNT VERNON'S ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATOR STEVEN STUCKEY AND MASTER CARPENTER JOHN O'ROURKE SURVEY THE EXTERIOR OF THE CUPOLA DURING ITS RESTORATION. (KAREN PRICE)



FOR MORE ON THE CUPOLA WORK AND GRAFFITI, SEE THE WINTER 2015 ISSUE OF *MOUNT VERNON* MAGAZINE OR VISIT MOUNTVERNON.ORG/GRAFFITI. (KAREN PRICE)

apparently dropped when the shingles were replaced during the 1800s. The red color appeared on the Mansion by 1793 when Edward Savage painted his two famous views of Mount Vernon. However, while working on the roof this year, we found a number of original shingles inside a garret crawl space over the study in the addition that was built in 1775. And these shingles were gray, not red!

Combining this new find with existing evidence that the first layer of paint on the 1787 finial of the cupola was gray, we can conclude that the Mansion roof was gray until sometime between 1787 and 1793. Correspondence from

1792 and 1793 indicates that Washington was changing the outbuilding roofs from gray to red because red lead cost less than the white lead needed to make gray paint. Clearly, he made the same change to the Mansion.

It is amazing that as well-studied as the Mount Vernon Mansion is, it still offers new surprises after 281 years. We are deeply grateful to Scott and Lynn Molitor—and the numerous donors who responded to the appeals in our spring and fall newsletters—for the financial support that made this important work possible and facilitated these remarkable discoveries.

Maintaining the Mansion

Beyond the significant restorations to the Mansion roof and cupola, we completed other noteworthy projects inside the Mansion and within the historic area in 2015.

STABILIZING THE STAIRS

Early in the year, we finished the restoration of the Mansion's central staircase, tightening the carpentry and adding supporting posts to stabilize and strengthen

it from below. As we removed plaster to perform this work, we also documented the space by 3-D scanning its structural elements, recording both original wood and multiple generations of repairs. This project was completed thanks to the generous support of the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon.

We also used new engineering and technology outside of the Mansion. After nearly two years of planning and

preparation, we installed new durable state-of-the-art and ADA-compliant walkways in the Mansion colonnades. The steel-frame walkways are painted a dark green to blend into the landscape. The new design also incorporates a walk-off grate, which helps to reduce the amount of dust and gravel tracked into the Mansion by visitors—an improvement that has already had a noticeable impact.

PLANNING FOR THE HISTORIC AREA'S FUTURE

All undertakings in the historic area require careful planning, research, and resources to complete. In 2015, after a behind-the-scenes tour, Advisory Committee member Karen Buchwald Wright made an extraordinary \$5 million commitment to create an endowment for care of the Mansion, outbuildings, gardens, and grounds. Then, at the end of 2015, she issued the K.B.W. Preservation Challenge, tripling the impact of each donation with a generous match and inspiring 3,107 gifts totaling \$578,507 before year's end. The effort also received significant support from Scott and Lynn Molitor and the Ariel Corporation's senior management team.

We also made solid progress toward implementing a new fire-suppression system in the Mansion and outbuildings, designing components for the new detection, suppression, and alarm mechanisms, as well as contracting with Fireline, an industry leader, to oversee the upgrade process. With equipment orders and permit applications submitted, we anticipate beginning installation of the system in 2016.



ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATOR STEVEN STUCKEY AND MASTER CARPENTER GUS KIORPES CONSERVE AND RESTORE THE MANSION'S ORIGINAL WALNUT STAIRCASE. (KAREN PRICE)

Fundraising for this significant project is ongoing, but we received generous support from the Marietta McNeill Morgan & Samuel Tate Morgan, Jr. Foundation; the George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Foundation; and the George L. Shields Foundation, Inc.

Reexamining the Furnishings

In keeping with our plans to create the most authentic representation of the home as it appeared in 1799, guests also witnessed changes to the Mansion's furnishings in 2015.

We acquired two mid-18th-century English mahogany dining tables for the Mansion. These tables—one of which appears in the dining room and the other in the central passage—represent the pair that George Washington ordered from London in 1757 and described as “Two neat Mahogany Tables 4 ½ feet square when spread and to join occasionally.” Such tables were popular because they could be kept closed against a wall when not in use and moved to specific rooms to accommodate the needs of a particular occasion. Recent research indicates that the

tables acquired at this early date continued to be used in both the dining room and the New Room throughout the Washingtons' lives.

Recognizing our need to safeguard priceless objects, we also moved key pieces of our collection from the Mansion to safer, more climate-controlled environments. George Washington's uncommon chair, long displayed in the study, is now featured in the Museum's Gilder Lehrman Gallery. Nelly Custis's harpsichord was removed from the little parlor for an exciting conservation project partially funded by the Life Guard Society.

To best outfit the Mansion, we also benefitted from generous, and creative, gifts from supporters. Through a

One of
2015's
biggest
discoveries
came about
through the
tiniest of
clues.

CHINTZ-PATTERN WALLPAPER
FRAGMENT, CA. 1758, FOUND IN
THE CHINTZ ROOM DURING
THE 2015–2016 RESTORATION
(KAREN PRICE)



\$100,000 commitment from The Geraldine W. and Robert J. Dellenback Foundation, we have replenished the shelves of the book press in George Washington's study, after many volumes were relocated to the Washington Library. We are grateful to additional generous supporters of our preservation and collections efforts, including Christine and Jaime Yordán and Lisa Moore, the Vice Regent Emerita for Virginia, who made a significant contribution to the William and Lisa Moore Endowment Fund for the acquisition of fine and decorative arts. Hollywood notables Ronald and Cheryl Howard donated more than 60 pieces of furniture and four chandeliers that were sold at auction for the benefit of the Mansion acquisition fund.

Researching the furnishings that appeared in the Mansion is an arduous process. To support our efforts, we commissioned the Washington Furnishings Database, which digitally unifies all documentation—such as letters, invoices, memos, and inventories—on furnishings owned or used by George and Martha Washington and their family. Using this database, curators and researchers can now digitally analyze the type and quantity of objects used on the estate, as well as accurately identify patterns in the Washingtons' consumerism.

GUIDING FUTURE WORK

One of 2015's biggest discoveries about the Mansion and its decor came from the tiniest of clues. While removing plaster in the Nelly Custis Lewis room, we came across several fragments of 18th-century wallpaper. Analysis by paint conservator Dr. Susan Buck indicates that these fragments represent the earliest generation of paper in the room (ca. 1758–1759), and curatorial research suggests that they represent the mock chintz (or Chinese) papers acquired by Washington from London in 1758. Together with a fragment of yellow flocked wallpaper found in the little parlor in 2006, these comprise the earliest surviving physical evidence of wallpaper used in the Chesapeake region. This exciting discovery enabled curators to identify this bedchamber as the location listed on period documents as the "chintz room," suggesting the use of colorful Indian-floral pattern textiles. The information will not only guide this room's restoration, but will also inform work on additional bedchambers in the future.

IN GRATITUDE TO THE CONNOISSEUR SOCIETY

The scientific analysis of our wallpaper fragments was made possible by the generous support of the Connoisseur Society (see p. 55). In 2015, the Connoisseurs also provided funding for the collections conservation lab to acquire a portable x-ray fluorescence spectrometer (pXRF), enhancing our ability to characterize objects by revealing their elemental composition. The Connoisseurs further supported the acquisition and conservation of a pair of 19th-century oil portraits of George and Martha Washington and a neoclassical banjo clock featuring an image of Mount Vernon. In total, the Connoisseurs committed more than \$194,000 to advance our mission through these initiatives and acquisitions.



MOUNT VERNON'S LATEST DIGITAL PRESENTATION, *THE WINTER PATRIOTS*, TELLS THE STORIES OF THE BATTLES OF TRENTON AND PRINCETON USING LIVE-ACTION FOOTAGE AND CUTTING-EDGE ANIMATION. VIEW THE PRODUCTION AT MOUNTVERNON.ORG/THEWINTERPATRIOTS.

Reaching New Audiences

In 2015, we also innovatively deployed digital platforms that share our stories in engaging new ways.

GROWING WEBSITE TRAFFIC

In the first full year since our August 2014 website redesign, traffic to mountvernon.org soared to new heights, driven by compelling content and strong social media and marketing efforts. The new site earned critical acclaim, taking home a Gold W3 Award, one of the highest honors available to websites of cultural institutions. By the end of the year, the site had attracted more than 4 million unique visitors (a 25 percent upswing from 2014) and hosted more than 5.6 million unique website sessions, a sharp increase from the 4.2 million sessions recorded in 2014. Notably, nearly half of all website users explored mountvernon.org on mobile devices.

LAUNCHING TWO NEW APPS

To further expand our digital footprint, we launched the new *Mount Vernon App*, designed to enhance our guests' experiences with special features like interactive maps, immersive tours, quizzes, and more. Developed with generous funding from the Life Guard Society and Scott and Lynn Molitor, the free app is available in the App Store

and on Google Play. To assist guests in identifying plants grown on the estate, the app also includes a "Plant Finder" feature sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts. By the end of 2015, the *Mount Vernon App* had been downloaded to more than 32,000 devices.

As families flocked to the estate during the summer season, we introduced the *Agent 711: Spy Adventure App*. This interactive adventure guides would-be secret agents to locations across the estate to crack codes, tackle challenges, and interact with characters. The *Spy App* was sponsored by the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists.

To make it easier for guests to download these powerful tools, we introduced free public WiFi across the estate, unobtrusively installing 130 access points around the grounds and at the Library in the course of the year. The Mount Vernon archaeology team monitored the excavation of trenches for the installation of conduit lines associated with the WiFi antennas across the estate to mitigate the impacts on the historic area.

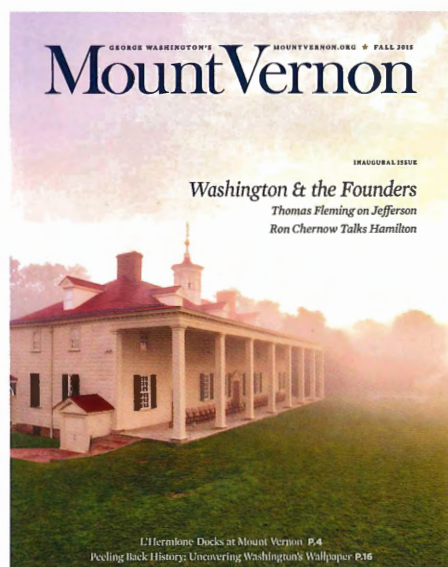
CREATING NEW CONTENT

Telling the dramatic story of the "Ten Crucial Days" from the crossing of the Delaware River through the Battles of Trenton and Princeton, our second multimedia production, *The Winter Patriots*, debuted this year. The production builds on the success of our 2014 digital presentation, *Now or Never*, which took home coveted Silver Telly and Pixie Awards. Funded by The F.M. Kirby Foundation, *The Winter Patriots* has earned rave reviews from teachers, history enthusiasts, and other key audiences.

Despite the undeniable potency of such productions, we recognize that simpler video styles also prove to be powerful platforms for telling Mount Vernon's stories. Thanks to the generosity of Lucia Bosqui Henderson, Vice Regent for Virginia, we purchased our own drone to capture dramatic aerial footage of the estate for use in such ventures.



THE NEW MOUNT VERNON
MAGAZINE DEBUTED IN SEPTEMBER.
VIEW A PREVIEW ONLINE AT
MOUNTVERNON.ORG/MAGAZINE.



DEVELOPING SMART PARTNERSHIPS

To increase the reach and impact of these important educational platforms, we collaborated with key partners known for their strong distribution networks and brands. We teamed up with PBS Learning Media to launch a series of online media galleries, bringing our rich content and interpreted primary sources to a vast audience of teachers. In collaboration with HISTORY®, we released a series of videos on Washington's leadership, featuring interviews with luminaries and notables, from retired general and former Secretary of State Colin Powell to Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy. By earning additional in-kind advertising resources through Google's nonprofit grants program, we drove thousands of additional visits to our website.

Even as our heightened commitment to advancing technology attracted new partners, it also reinforced our connections with longstanding donors, including the Robert H. Smith Family Foundation, which continued its support of these efforts with a gift in memory of Mount Vernon's former president, James C. Rees IV.

INTRODUCING A NEW MAGAZINE

In addition to introducing new digital platforms, we also took a significant step this year to evolve our print communications. In September, we released the first issue of our newest publication, *Mount Vernon Magazine*, which will be produced three times each year, replacing our *Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow* newsletter. The magazine has been widely praised by longtime supporters, scholars, and new audiences across the country.

CREATING NEW TOOLS

Through digital presentations, Mount Vernon has brought Washington's military accomplishments to life in engaging new ways. Our next production, slated for release in early 2017, will explore the role Washington played in the creation of a new constitution. To support the development of this production, the Life Guard Society for Historic Mount Vernon held a fundraising event on September 26, netting more than \$90,000. We are grateful to the supporters of this event.

LEADER

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LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA ACCEPTS
A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE
GEORGE WASHINGTON PRIZE FOR
HAMILTON.
(PATRICK MCMULLAN)



Reinvigorating Landmark Programs

In this year of transformation, we reexamined legacy programs and capitalized on current culture.

EVOLVING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON PRIZE

Since 2005, Mount Vernon has partnered with Washington College and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to award the George Washington Book Prize to a new work exploring the founding era. Nick Bunker was honored with the 2015 prize for his *Empire on the Edge*:

How Britain Came to Fight America (Knopf), receiving a medal and a \$50,000 prize.

But the sponsoring organizations also spied an opportunity to honor another new work that was swiftly earning acclaim from critics, the public, and even students—Lin-Manuel Miranda's smash-hit Broadway musical, *Hamilton*, which has turned an often-overlooked founder into a hero for modern audiences. In December, representatives from Mount Vernon, Washington College, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute traveled to New York to present a Special Achievement Award to Miranda. Members of the cast, along with Miranda's wife and parents and Pulitzer Prize winner Ron Chernow, attended this special event.

In recognizing *Hamilton*, the presenting organizations sought to call attention to the true miracle of the musical; as Chernow—who won the inaugural George Washington Book Prize in 2005 for his book, *Alexander Hamilton*—remarked, “Lin-Manuel Miranda has done the impossible. He has made American history hip and cool and erudite all at once.”

“Lin-Manuel Miranda has done the impossible. He has made American history hip and cool and erudite all at once.”

REIMAGINING RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS

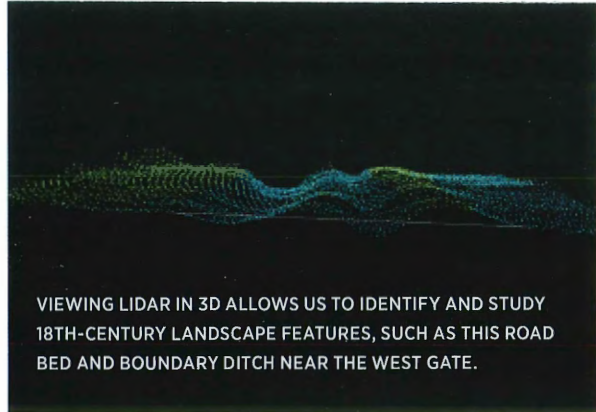
For 17 years, Mount Vernon has offered residential summer programs for educators in select donor-sponsored states. After extensive research and evaluation, we initiated a plan in 2015 to overhaul the program, expanding it to include teachers from across the country and shortening the length of each session. The new program will focus on six key topics, such as leadership and slavery, delivered in shorter four-day sessions. The

participating teachers will become part of an alumni network designed to foster future collaboration, provide feedback on new media tools, pilot lessons, and lead professional development sessions in

their communities. The transformed residential program will launch in summer 2016.



PARTICIPANTS IN THE TEACHER INSTITUTE TAKE PART IN HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES. (MVLA)



VIEWING LIDAR IN 3D ALLOWS US TO IDENTIFY AND STUDY 18TH-CENTURY LANDSCAPE FEATURES, SUCH AS THIS ROAD BED AND BOUNDARY DITCH NEAR THE WEST GATE.

Using Technology to Understand the Terrain

Although our research often focuses on the historic area, we have also deployed cutting-edge tools to expand our knowledge and understanding of all of Washington's original landholdings and the viewshed.

To better analyze topography of the landscape, we flew LiDAR—or light-detecting and ranging—over the estate and the entirety of Washington's original 8,000-acre plantation. This surveying technology uses lasers to generate precise information about the contours of the earth and the characteristics of specific surfaces. This initiative, funded by Lucy S. Rhame, uncovered new information about Washington's original landholdings, which will assist us in the management of the modern estate and expand our knowledge of Washington's original five farms.

Our use of such technology to build upon our understanding of the past has earned Mount Vernon several notable recognitions, including an award at the 2015 Esri User Conference for Special Achievement in GIS (Geographic Information Systems) for the Historic Building Information Model we created in 2014—making us one of only 175 honorees out of a field of more than 100,000 nominees.

PROTECTING THE VIEW

Our commitment to the preservation of Mount Vernon's viewshed continued in 2015, thanks to the help of our faithful supporters. The Middendorf Foundation made a generous gift to support our continued preservation of the view that we admire across the Potomac River. Additional noteworthy support was provided by Brown Advisory, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Rasmus, and an anonymous donor.

RESTORING THE EAST SLOPE

After severe weather rocked the estate on August 12, 2014, the lawn's east slope started showing signs of erosion, prompting us to take immediate—and costly—action. The Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon allocated the nearly \$85,000 raised during the February 15 Birthnight Ball to support this important initiative. We are grateful to the following sponsors.

GOLD

Dick and Janice Crosby
Mr.† and Mrs. John Gluck
Jim and Jo Carol Porter

Mrs. Barbara Lane/General Electric
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Leading Builders of America
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BRONZE

John and Stavroula Alachnowicz
John and Ruth Huber
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BRONZE

Fast Signs/Alexandria
Mount Vernon Voice
The Shops at Mount Vernon

PATRON

Museum Framing
Occasionally Cake
S.L. Hinson Associates, LLP

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–Fort Belvoir, Holiday Inn Express
Suites–Alexandria, Fort Belvoir
Cedar Knoll
Embark Travel – Monique Minnick
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Revolution Agency
Top It Off
The Virginia Florist

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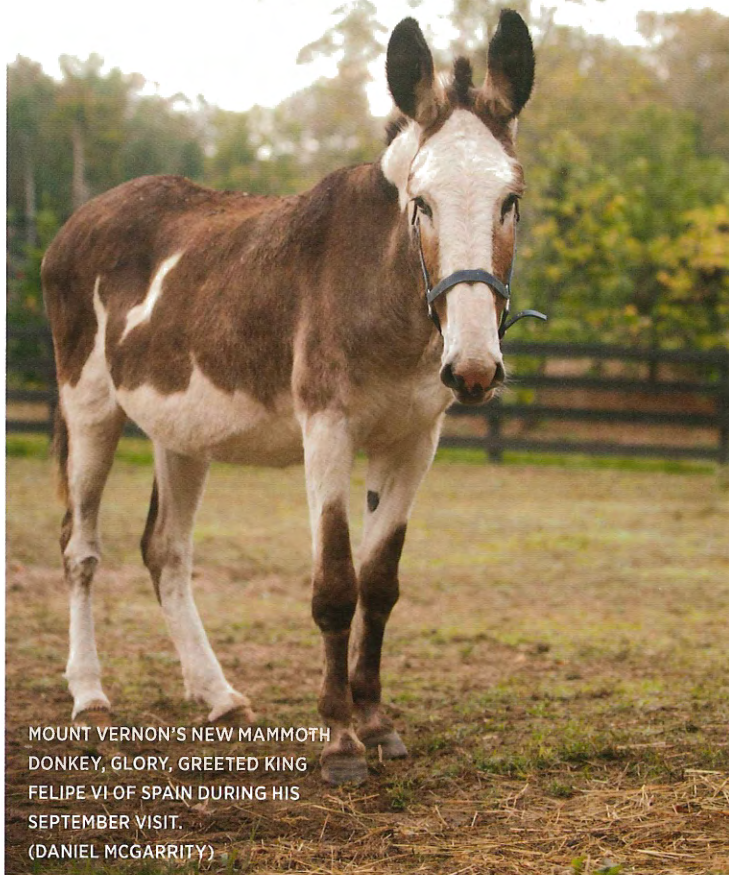
† Deceased

Enriching the Living Landscape

George Washington's passion for farming—and his ongoing focus on improving processes and practices—carries over to the horticulture and livestock teams that maintain this beautiful landscape today. These stories of Washington's agricultural interests resonate with visitors of all ages.

ADDING TO OUR AGRICULTURAL OFFERINGS

Just as they did in Washington's time, animals play a critical role at Mount Vernon. They plow fields, provide wool for fabric, and, perhaps most important, provide a ready source of entertainment and education for our guests. The 47 Hog Island lambs born on the estate in March and 16 Ossabaw Island piglets born in December weren't our only new arrivals. Thanks to the efforts of Lucia Henderson, Vice Regent for Virginia, and a donation by Mary Ellen Nicholas, we received a new mammoth donkey, Glory. This addition allows us to tell the story of Royal Gift—the donkey given to George Washington by the King of Spain, in response to his interest in breeding mules. And thanks to our 2015 Giving Tuesday fundraising efforts and a generous anonymous gift, mules will soon return to Mount Vernon, joining Glory and Cochise, a workhorse purchased through another gift.



MOUNT VERNON'S NEW MAMMOTH
DONKEY, GLORY, GREETED KING
FELIPE VI OF SPAIN DURING HIS
SEPTEMBER VISIT.
(DANIEL MCGARRITY)

SUPPORTING THE LIVESTOCK PROGRAM

The Life Guard Society's spring fundraiser, held May 2, brought in more than \$60,000 to improve Mount Vernon's livestock facilities. The funds will be used to develop a concept plan for a new barn and other site improvements. Additional fundraising opportunities for this important initiative will follow those findings. We are grateful to the sponsors of this event.

BENEFACTOR

Karen Buchwald Wright

LEADER

Anonymous

Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Crosby

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Mars

Mr. and Mrs. P. William Moore, Jr.

Jim and Jo Carol Porter

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Steele

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schott Stevens

HOST

Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Dwoskin

Robert and Mimie Helm

SPONSOR

Mr. Russell B. Adams, Jr.

John and Stavroula Alachnowicz

Dr. Richard G. Ammerman and

Dr. Susan Ammerman

Cricket Bauer

Mr. Robert Bernasconi

Mr. Glen Bolger and Ms. Carol Farquhar

Thomas F. Cleary, M.D.

Sarah Miller Coulson

Stewart and Loti Dunn

Robert and Bettye Hammond

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Huber

Tom Hulfish

James H. Lemon, Jr.

Chris and Betsy Little

Catherine H. and Michael R. Mayton

Judge Paul Michel and Ms. Brooke England

Brian Murdock

Margaret H. and David E. Nichols

Mr. and Mrs. David Prescott

William H. and Ilona S. Savage

Ben S. Stefanski II

Mr. and Mrs. William Stromberg

Mr. and Mrs. Richard J.J. Sullivan

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Wicks

"GEORGE WASHINGTON,"
PORTRAYED BY DEAN MALISSA,
TOASTS THE NEW SINGLE MALT
WHISKY WITH THE DISTILLERS
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE
PROJECT. (DANIEL MCGARRITY)



In 2015, we produced nearly 1,000 gallons of spirits, a new record for our distillery.

Distilling History

Just as Washington constantly sought improvements to his business operations, we too have continued to hone our whiskey-making skills using his recipe and techniques. In 2015, we produced nearly 1,000 gallons of spirits, a new record for our distillery.

We were also proud to debut our first-ever single malt whisky—the result of a three-year collaboration with the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS), the Scotch Whisky Association, and master distillers from three of Scotland's top distilleries: Glenmorangie, Laphroaig, and Cardhu. The product's debut generated worldwide media attention, with stories appearing in the Associated Press, the *Washington Post*, and ABC News. While not available for public sale, the resulting spirits will be used to generate interest in, and support for, Mount Vernon; the first two bottles were auctioned at the DISCUS annual *Spirit of Mount Vernon* fundraising gala, adding \$27,000 to the evening's gross revenue of \$380,000.

To make it easier for guests to visit the Distillery & Gristmill, we launched a free shuttle service connecting the site with the estate. Guests responded with enthusiasm—attendance topped 44,000 for the year, a 25 percent increase over 2014. We are exceptionally thankful for the support of DISCUS, which made the purchase and operation of this shuttle possible. We would further like to acknowledge the visionary leadership of Dr. Peter Cressy, our longtime supporter, who retired from DISCUS at the end of 2015.

Uncovering the Past

Using a combination of technology, new acquisitions, and archaeology in 2015, we arrived at a greater understanding of the enslaved community that lived at Mount Vernon during George Washington's lifetime.

SEEKING DETAILED EVIDENCE

For decades, we have worked to compile records about the Washingtons and their enslaved workforce. These records, now assembled in a database and numbering more than 28,000, come in various forms, including ledger entries for medical expenses paid, references to goods bought and sold, and even letters in Washington's own hand discussing matters on his farm. By the end of 2015, we had identified 536 enslaved individuals who lived or worked at Mount Vernon.

EXCAVATING NEW EVIDENCE

We also expanded our knowledge of the enslaved community through archaeology. Field work continued this year with the survey of the slave cemetery by staff, participants in our 2015 University of Maryland/Mount Vernon Historic Preservation field school, and volunteers. Over the past two field seasons, our archaeologists excavated 143 test units, discovering 46 burials, 14 of which we believe to be children and infants.

The information gathered from these efforts—whether gained by digging into the database or the earth itself—will help to inform our upcoming exhibition, *Lives Bound Together: Slavery at George Washington's Mount Vernon*, which will be on view for two years, beginning in October 2016. The exhibition will be accompanied by a publication, a scholarly symposium, and new programming and media offerings. Ambassador and Mrs. Nicholas F. Taubman made a significant lead matching challenge gift for these endeavors. We also received generous support during 2015 from the Dr. Scholl Foundation, Gail B. and Togo D. West, Jr., Maribeth A. and Wm. Harold Borthwick, and Mr. Paul Neely.



(ALEXANDER MOROZOV)

ABOVE, PETER HANES AND ROHULAMIN QUANDER PLACE FLOWERS ON GRAVE SITES AT THE SLAVE BURIAL GROUND DURING OUR ANNUAL COMMEMORATION CEREMONY.

RIGHT, PARTICIPANTS IN THE CEREMONY LAID BOXWOOD SPRIGS ON THE MEMORIAL TO HONOR THE ENSLAVED.



(ALEXANDER MOROZOV)

By the end of 2015, we had identified 536 enslaved individuals who lived or worked at Mount Vernon.



"GEORGE WASHINGTON,"
PORTRAYED BY DEAN
MALISSA, GREET
HIS TROOPS DURING
REVOLUTIONARY WAR
WEEKEND. (ROB SHENK)

Hosting Memorable Events

Through popular annual programs like our spring and fall wine festivals, candlelight tours, and Washington's birthday festivities, we invite guests to get to know the Father of Our Country in innovative and surprising ways. In addition to entertaining and delighting our guests, public events are an important—and growing—source of revenue for Mount Vernon. In 2015, we raised more than \$1 million in gross revenue from major public events. Public events attendance has grown by 20 percent since 2013.

Some of our best-loved annual events returned this year with new and exciting enhancements. For our annual Independence Day celebration—sponsored for the first time by Ford Motor Company—we welcomed CIA Director John Brennan as the keynote speaker. Our Colonial Market & Fair, held September 16–17, featured an 18th-century hot-air balloon, providing an outstanding opportunity to discuss Washington's interest in new technologies.

Two events introduced in 2014 saw a remarkable uptick in attendance during their second years. Trick-or-Treating brought more than 2,400 children and parents to Mount Vernon—a 40 percent increase over 2014. Building on the popularity of 2014's Christmas Illuminations holiday fireworks program, we expanded the event to two nights, attracting sell-out crowds of more than 4,000 on December 18 and 19.

We further livened up our calendar with public events and programs, all of which provided interesting platforms to tell engaging new stories about Washington and his life and times.

TEA WITH LADY WASHINGTON, JANUARY–MARCH
New for 2015, this popular program allowed guests to enjoy tea and conversation with the original First Lady at the Mount Vernon Inn on select winter Saturdays.

A CALL TO ARMS: REVOLUTIONARY WAR WEEKEND, MAY 2–3
More than 11,000 guests got a taste of the Revolution as we hosted one of our largest military reenactments in recent memory. More than 500 reenactors, including "British army" and Hessians, brought the era to life with military drills, cannon and cavalry demonstrations, and more.

SUMMER ESCAPE, JUNE 12–13
To celebrate the start of summer, we introduced a new food- and beverage-focused evening event that attracted 2,200 food, beer, and spirits enthusiasts and young professionals to Mount Vernon for culinary samples, dancing, music, and entertainment.

CAMP WASHINGTON, JULY
Our first summer day camp brought the estate to life in an exciting new way for 27 young people. Participants toured the estate, met characters, tried out 18th-century trades, interacted with animals, and more.

MOUNT VERNON IN 3-D: THEN & NOW, AUGUST–NOVEMBER
With scaffolding blocking views of the Mansion, we offered visitors a special outdoor exhibit highlighting historic views of the property dating back to the 1850s. The historic images from our collection of stereoviews were adapted into modern 3-D photographs, allowing visitors to use 3-D glasses to view the images in the same locations in which they were originally taken.

HORSES & HOUNDS, NOVEMBER 14
Both Washington's love for dogs and his skill on horseback were legendary—and they served as the focus of another new event. More than 3,000 guests watched fox hunting demonstrations provided by the Caroline Hunt, plus exciting equestrian action.

MOUNT VERNON MOURNS, DECEMBER 12–13
Honoring the anniversary of General Washington's death, this moving evening program brought guests through the first and second floors of the Mansion, where character interpreters shared the events of the death and mourning period. Guests then traveled to the Washington Tomb by candlelight.



GUESTS ATTEND AN EVENING LECTURE AT THE WASHINGTON LIBRARY. (SCOTT HENRICHSEN)

Nurturing Scholarship

In its second year of operations, the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington carried out an ambitious schedule of projects and programs. The Library staff created new digital content, released a new publication, and launched an innovative leadership training program. At the same time, we welcomed our third class of research fellows and hosted a packed calendar of lectures and symposia. We also assisted hundreds of scholars, educators, and students with their research needs.

CULTIVATING RESEARCH

To coincide with our latest temporary exhibition, *Gardens & Groves*, which focused on Washington's vision for the Mount Vernon landscape, we partnered with the University of Virginia Press on a new publication—the first released under the Washington Library's imprimatur. *The General in the Garden: George Washington's Landscape at Mount Vernon* was edited by our Robert H. Smith Senior Curator Susan P. Schoelwer,

The Washington Library forged stronger international connections in 2015.

with essays by staff and outside experts, along with lists of plants documented in primary sources and beautiful color photography. The publication was generously funded by the Nimick Forbesway Foundation, the Life Guard Society of Historic Mount Vernon, and the David Bruce Smith Book Fund.

HOSTING SPECIAL GUESTS

Building on a theme that resonated across the estate, the Library forged stronger international connections in 2015. We partnered with the Sons of the American Revolution on an academic conference focusing on Lafayette and European friends of the American Revolution. During a special event, His Excellency Ramón Gil-Casares, Spanish ambassador to the United States, presented the Library with the *Documentos relativos a la independencia de Norteamérica existentes en archivos españoles*—an important 13-volume reference collection that identifies all known documents related to the American Revolution preserved in Spanish archives.



DURING A SPECIAL VISIT TO THE LIBRARY BY HIS EXCELLENCY RAMÓN GIL-CASARES, SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, REGENT BARBARA LUCAS PRESENTS HIM WITH A COPY OF *THE GENERAL IN THE GARDEN*. (FOSTER WILEY)

LEADING ON LEADERSHIP

We also sought to establish Mount Vernon and the Library as a center for leadership development with the launch of the George Washington Leadership Institute. Participants gather at the Library to discuss leadership case studies and to consider critical decisions made by Washington and his contemporaries. Scant months after its launch, the program earned acclaim from HR.com and Leadership Excellence.

SUPPORTING NEW RESEARCH

While promoting these new programs, we also continued to support new scholarship through our research fellows program. This group's work on a wide range of topics has greatly enriched our knowledge about George Washington and early America.

2015-2016 RESEARCH FELLOWS

- Thomas Agostini, Ph.D., South Dakota State University. *Recipient of the Society of Colonial Wars Fellowship*
- Steven C. Bullock, Ph.D., Worcester Polytechnic Institute. *Recipient of the M. Elaine Rand Fellowship*
- Joshua P. Canale, Ph.D., Le Moyne College
- Katlyn Carter, Ph.D. candidate, Princeton University
- Lindsay M. Chervinsky, Ph.D. candidate, University of California, Davis. *Recipient of the James C. Rees Fellowship on the Leadership of George Washington*
- Matthew Costello, Ph.D. candidate, Marquette University
- David G. Dalin, Ph.D., Ave Maria University
- Victor Enthoven, Ph.D., Free University of Amsterdam
- John Fea, Ph.D., Messiah College
- Nathaniel C. Green, Ph.D., Northern Virginia Community College
- Richard G. Harless, Ph.D., St. Mary's Honors College of Maryland. *Recipient of the James C. Rees Fellowship on the Entrepreneurship of George Washington funded by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation*
- David Head, Ph.D., University of Central Florida. *Recipient of the Amanda and Greg Gregory Family Fellowship*
- Amy Hudson Henderson, Ph.D., independent scholar
- Erin M. Holmes, Ph.D. candidate, University of South Carolina
- Chris Juergens, Ph.D. candidate, Florida State University
- Kenneth Allen Lane, Ph.D. candidate, Binghamton University, State University of New York
- Csaba Lévai, Ph.D., University of Debrecen, Hungary
- Philip Levy, Ph.D., University of South Florida
- Gates Thomas, Berkeley College of Music
- Lorena Seebach Walsh, Ph.D., independent scholar

Welcoming Top Scholars



(TRACY WOODWARD)



(TRACY WOODWARD)



(MVLA)



(MVLA)

In 2015, Mount Vernon hosted approximately 62 lectures and symposia for scholars, students, and supporters, with programs taking place both on the estate and at the Washington Library.

MICHELLE SMITH LECTURE SERIES MARCH-MAY

This four-part spring series, supported by a generous grant from Robert H. and Clarice Smith, included presentations by Laura Aurrichio, Lorri Glover, Richard Beeman, and Libby Haight O'Connell.

MARTHA WASHINGTON LECTURE MARCH 23

This program, featuring Cokie Roberts, who spoke on her book, *Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation*, was created to share new scholarship and insights into the life and times of Martha Washington and is made possible through a generous endowment established by the Richard S. Reynolds Foundation of Richmond, Virginia.

THE MOUNT VERNON SYMPOSIUM: THE LADY OF THE HOUSE: WOMEN AND AMERICAN DECORATIVE ARTS MAY 29-31

This three-day event featured outstanding presentations by leading scholars, including Zara Anishanslin, Lydia Brandt, Louisa Brouwer, Ulysses Grant Dietz, Amy Henderson, Meg Kennedy, Marla Miller, Christopher Monkhouse, Sumpter Priddy, Susan P. Schoelwer, and Betsy Garrett Widmer. The symposium is supported by a generous endowment established by The Felicia Fund, The Sachem Foundation, and Liz R. and Frank Mauran IV.

SAR ANNUAL CONFERENCE: THE MARQUIS DE
LAFAYETTE AND THE EUROPEAN FRIENDS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
JUNE 12-13

In honor of the visit of *L'Hermione*, Mount Vernon hosted and co-sponsored the Sons of the American Revolution's Annual Conference on the American Revolution, highlighting alliances between the United States and France during the American Revolution, as well as lesser-known relationships with the Netherlands, Spain, and other European states and individuals. Presenters included Olivier Chaline, Kathleen DuVal, Victor Enthoven, Paul Gilje, Sylvia Hilton, Jean-Marie Kowalski, Julia Osman, Munro Price, Marie-Jeanne Rossignol, Patrick Villiers, and Timothy Walker. The conference was supported by gifts from the Richard Lounsbery Foundation and Friends of Hermione-Lafayette in America.

THE GAY HART GAINES DISTINGUISHED
VISITING LECTURER OF AMERICAN HISTORY:
DR. JOSEPH J. ELLIS
SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER

This year's scholar delivered three lectures entitled *American Empire: Washington and the West*. Flora Fraser presented an additional lecture on her book, *The Washingtons: George and Martha, "Join'd by Friendship, Crown'd by Love."* The series is supported by an endowment established by Lewis E. Lehrman.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP LECTURE
SERIES: A CONVERSATION WITH DAVID PETRAEUS
OCTOBER 15

The evening featured a conversation between General Petraeus and University of Southern California Sol Price Professor David Sloane, who explored Washington's leadership style during and after the Revolution, his influence on the evolution of American military leadership, and his interactions with civilian leadership. They were joined by Mount Vernon President Curt Viebranz to consider the

ongoing challenges of leadership in America and the importance of Washington's legacy today. This program, presented in partnership with the University of Southern California, was established through a generous gift by Maribeth Borthwick, a USC alumna and the Vice Regent for California.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON SYMPOSIUM:
GEORGE WASHINGTON GOES TO WAR
NOVEMBER 6-7

During this two-day event, speakers discussed the Commander in Chief and his achievements on the battlefield. Presenters included Patricia Brady, Stephen Brumwell, Ira D. Gruber, Kevin J. Hayes, Ricardo Herrera, Amanda Isaac, R. Scott Stephenson, and Joseph Stoltz. This popular annual event is supported by an endowment established by The Barra Foundation.

MONTHLY FORD EVENING BOOK TALKS

Authors featured in this monthly series included Barbara Kellerman, Thomas A. Foster, Jonathan Horn, Lynne Cheney, Kathleen Bartoloni-Tuazon, Aaron David Miller, Cassandra Good, David and Jeanne Heidler, Andrea Wulf, Harry Kraemer, Paul Brandus, and Colin Gordon Calloway. This free program is supported with a generous grant from the Ford Motor Company.

LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP

In this regularly offered program, Mount Vernon staff members, research fellows, and other experts share their latest research in special presentations to members and donors. This year's offerings included presentations by research fellows Nicholas Wood, Kate Brown, Bruce Ragsdale, Michael Blaakman, Dana John Stefanelli, Nathaniel Green, and Timothy Walker. Other featured presenters included Neale Millikan, associate editor of *The Papers of George Washington*, and Sue McNally, head gardener at Washington's ancestral home, Sulgrave Manor.



(PHIL DIDION)

STUDENTS TEST OUT 18TH-CENTURY TECHNOLOGIES DURING AN IMMERSIVE REVOLUTIONARY WAR EXPERIENCE IN CINCINNATI. AN OPEN FIELD IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL IS PERFECT TO DEMONSTRATE A FRENCH TREBUCHET.

Inspiring Teachers and Students

Perhaps no arena better illustrates how beautifully history and technology can complement each other than the inside of a classroom. With this in mind, and after months of careful planning, we began to roll out new components to our education outreach effort.

ADDING REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Recognizing that today's educators are pressed for time and short on resources, we have increased the number of regional professional development programs we offer in targeted locations throughout the country. Our team traveled to Connecticut, Kentucky, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Texas to meet teachers in their own communities, bringing Mount Vernon teaching resources and Washington experts directly to them. We also continued our summer residential programs, welcoming 80 educators from select states for a week-long experience at the estate and Library. To expand the reach of these programs, we invited teachers who could not be with us at the estate to join us for select sessions online via livestream. Residential programs in winter and fall brought an additional 35 teachers from Kentucky, Missouri, and Virginia.

The use of digital channels and virtual outreach tools also enabled us to take advantage of prime teaching moments. Noting that AP history teachers often have a lull in their lesson plans following the exam in May, we

partnered with the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and the World Affairs Council to host the inaugural *Scholars to Leaders* program. Supported by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, this half-day seminar featured lectures on leadership and civic responsibility from military officials, museum curators, and other notables. Students and teachers tuned in via webstream from more than 40 classrooms in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia,

Wisconsin, and at a Department of Defense campus, while 80 students from two local high schools attended the program in person.

Nothing tops the impact of hands-on learning.

MAINTAINING ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Although digital engagement is increasingly important, we recognize that nothing tops the impact of hands-on learning. As teachers pass through our residential programs or engage with our on-site resources, we cultivate a community of on-the-ground ambassadors and supporters. To empower this alumni network, we organized re-engagement "reunion" sessions in select states and at key conferences and



(PHIL DIDION)



(PHIL DIDION)

INKING THE PLATE FOR A PRINTING DEMONSTRATION.

helped establish digital outreach channels to allow past participants to share ideas and classroom successes.

We also supported our alumni's efforts to create inspiring moments for their students. In Ohio, for example, we lent a hand to Mount Vernon master educator and high school history teacher Jason Anderson as he brought an immersive Revolutionary War encampment program to life in Cincinnati, Akron, Columbus, and Mount Vernon. Under his leadership, more than 1,500 fourth- and fifth-grade students enjoyed the sights and smells of life in an 18th-century military camp. These initiatives were supported by KnowledgeWorks and funders of the teachers institute for Ohio educators, including Mr. and Mrs. Mark Schlachter, Mr. C. Joseph Arbogast†, Ariel Corporation, The Carol Ann & Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation,

John C. Griswold Foundation, Vice Regent for Ohio Melody Sawyer Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Weller, the Louise Taft Semple Foundation, Altria Corp., Inc., H. C. S. Foundation, and Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Buck Niehoff.

REACHING OUR COMMUNITY

Reaching students in our own backyard—particularly those from disadvantaged districts—also proved to be another worthy focus. In addition to offering workshops and programs for local teachers, we worked with a generous supporter, David Bruce Smith, to pilot a new program, *Becoming George Washington*. Students from underprivileged schools in Washington, D.C., spent a day at Mount Vernon, where they received immersive, hands-on lessons in leadership and character, drawing upon Washington's example. Curricula based on this tour will soon be available online to teachers across the country. In addition, the Ford Motor Company maintained its support of discounted admission and bus subsidies for students visiting Mount Vernon from select districts in the area.

We also continued our proud tradition of honoring a local educator as our History Teacher of the Year, a competition supported by the Robertson Foundation. The 2015 honoree, Monica Shah, teaches at the Brightwood Education Campus in Washington, D.C., and received a fully funded field trip to Mount Vernon for her students, as well as a \$5,000 prize.

Continuing another popular program, we again offered the Ammerman Youth Leadership Program to high school student leaders and their teachers. Participants in the February 18 event heard from Kathleen DeLaski, founder of Education Design Lab, and history professor Dr. Denver Brunsmann.

HELPING SHAPE FUTURE POLICY

Our education outreach continues to evolve in conjunction with discussions taking place in school districts and within national organizations about the future of history education. To position Mount Vernon as an unwavering advocate for this essential topic, we convened conversations with area university faculty; education leaders in states such as Texas, supported by the Beaumont Foundation, and Rhode Island, supported by the June Rockwell Levy Foundation; and educational media outlets such as PBS. We took leadership positions on national committees, such as the Civics Renewal Network and the History Relevance Campaign. We stepped up to support National History Day, presenting prizes to students from Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, and Oklahoma with outstanding George Washington-themed projects as well as awarding a prize at the national level.



LEFT: SURVEYING ACTIVITY WILL INTEGRATE MATH AND HISTORY.

Preserving the Records of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

Recognizing the important contributions of the generations of exceptional women and professional staff who have safeguarded Mount Vernon across the centuries, The Founders, Washington Committee for Historic Mount Vernon hosted two fundraising events to enable the Library to bring on board a digital archivist to manage digitization and cataloguing of the records of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. Together, these two events—held June 3 at Mount Vernon and October 19 at the residence of His Excellency Gérard Araud, the ambassador of France to the United States—raised more than \$160,000 in support of this important initiative. We extend our gratitude to the supporters of these events.



BENEFACTOR

Anonymous

Mrs. Edmund Bartlett

Mr. and Mrs. I. Townsend Burden III

Mrs. Brice M. Clagett

Mr. and Mrs. James F. Crumpacker

Embassy of the French Republic

Gay Hart Gaines

Lucia B. and Joseph W. Henderson III

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Mars

Mr. and Mrs. David B. Morgan

Ms. Catharine W. Trauernicht and

Mr. Dun Scott

The Honorable Henry K. Willard II

Karen Buchwald Wright

Mrs. Joy Ammerman and Dr. Denis Franks

Claudia P. and Richard G. Amundsen

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The Honorable Mary M. Ourisman and

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Ms. Martha Dippell

Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Mackall, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Robin D. Roberts

SPONSOR

Anonymous

Margaret A. and James E. Allison



(MVLA)



More than 300 miniature furnishings were carefully unpacked, dusted, and returned to place.

ABOVE: ELIZABETH CHAMBERS, CAROL CADOU, DULANY ANNING, TYLER CAIN, AND PRESTON JANSING CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF THE MINIATURE TO THE FORD ORIENTATION CENTER.

LEFT: DIANA WELSH REPLACES FURNISHINGS IN THE MINIATURE.

Enhancing our Collection

In addition to the fascinating documents, works of art, and objects on loan in the museum galleries, guests took note of other new acquisitions and enhancements to our collection during this past year.

We were delighted to welcome the return of a repaired and operating *Mount Vernon in Miniature* to the Ford Orientation Center in time for our busy spring season. The mechanics, electronics, and light fixtures of this exact scale model were revamped to ensure smooth operation of the moving parts, and more than 300 miniature furnishings were carefully unpacked, dusted, and returned to place. We are grateful to the family of Talbot deButts Cain, Vice Regent for Illinois (1994–2001), including Mr. Tyler R. Cain and his daughters, Mrs. Dulany C. Anning and Mrs. Preston C. Jansing, for their generous support of the refurbishment of this popular feature.

Scholars and researchers visiting the John and Adrienne Mars Rare Books & Manuscripts Room in the Washington Library can now see Rembrandt Peale's "Porthole Portrait" of George Washington as the artist intended, reunited with its original gilt frame for the first time in many years. A stunning work of art in its own right, the frame's iconography incorporates oak leaves and acorns, a laurel wreath, and fasces, ancient Roman symbols of strength, civic virtue, and power. We are grateful to the Founders Conservation Endowment Fund for making this work possible.

Selected Acquisitions

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

DOCUMENTS AND LETTERS

Ship Passport, signed by Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, from the schooner *Elizabeth*, dated July 14, 1794

Gift of Carol Jane Havlin, Katherine M. Westpheling, and Joan Albert Dreux in memory of their parents, John H. and Jane M. Albert

George Washington to Robert Dinwiddie, March 7, 1754, in which Washington requested supplies, uniforms, clarification of pay for troops, and offered his personal observations of Native Americans

Purchased with funds provided by Scott and Lynn Molitor

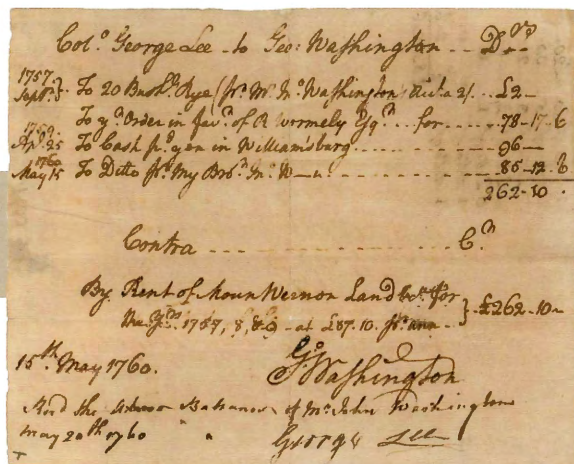
- George Washington to William Smith, December 22, 1757, in which Washington provided a list of subscribers, including himself, to the *American Magazine and Monthly Chronicle for the British Colonies*
- Thomas Paine to John Hustler, December 8, 1789, including Paine's transcript of George Washington's address to the Society of Quakers
- George Washington to Burgess Ball, August 4, 1792, regarding Washington's expectations of the farm managers at Mount Vernon
- Andrew Elliott to Thomas Mifflin, June 5, 1794, criticizing Washington's policies relating to Native Americans

Purchased by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Books and Manuscripts Endowment

Land document written and signed by George Washington, May 15, 1760, regarding rent due for Mount Vernon
Gift of the Mark R. Levin Family

George Washington to Benjamin Tallmadge, April 8, 1781, in which Washington asks Tallmadge to transmit a letter to Rochambeau

Gift of Alexander B. Trevor, direct descendant of Benjamin Tallmadge



Bushrod Washington to John Wickham, August 30, 1816, regarding a lawsuit

Gift of Patricia Wegner

RARE BOOKS

Bushrod Washington's copy of *The History, Civil, and Commercial of the British Colonies in the West Indies* by Bryan Edwards. (Philadelphia: printed by James Humphreys, 1805–1806).

Purchased by the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Endowment

- From the library of William A. Washington, *An essay on the true principles of the executive power translated by M. Necker* (London: G.G.J. and J. Robinson, 1792). Volume I only
- From the library of John A. Washington, *A treatise on political economy....by Jean-Baptiste Say with additional notes by Clement Biddle* (Philadelphia: Grigg & Elliot, 1836)

Gift of Patricia Wegner

BOOKS ACQUIRED FOR DISPLAY IN THE MANSION STUDY:

- *Twelve Sermons preached upon several occasions* (London: Printed for Jonah Bowyer, 1722). Volumes 1 & 6 only
- *Sermons* by Samuel Clark (London: Printed for John and Paul Knapton, 1744). Volumes 4 & 5 only
- *The Political Works of the right honourable Wentworth Dillon* (Glasgow: Printed by R. Urie, 1749)
- *The Monthly Review* by Several Hands (London: Printed for R. Griffiths, 1757). Volumes 16 & 19 only

- *Histoire de l'Amerique* by William Robertson. 4 volumes. (Maestricht, Chez Jean-Edme Dufour & Philippe Roux et La Haye, Chez Detune, 1777)
 - *The Holy Bible* (Massachusetts: Isiah Thomas, 1799)
- Gifts of William S. Reese*

- *A View of Society and Manners in France, Switzerland, and Germany ...* by John Moore. (Boston: Printed at the Apollo Press, by Belknap and Young, for David West ... and Ebenezer Larkin, jun., 1792)
 - *A View of Society and Manners in Italy ...* by John Moore. (Boston: Printed at the Apollo Press, by Belknap and Young, for David West ... and Ebenezer Larkin, jun., 1792)
- Gifts of Liz Rollins Mauran, Vice Regent for Rhode Island*

The History of England by T. Smollet. 8 volumes. (London: Printed for T. Cadell, 1794).
Gift of Edmund P. and Lori Ryan

EPHEMERA

Collection of George Washington ephemera
Gift of Martha Wilcox

Bound sheet music for Eleanore (Nelly) Parke Custis, 1794
Purchased by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Books and Manuscripts Endowment

Collection of 342 postcards relating to George Washington
Gift of Barbara L. Anderson

Collection of 35mm slides and lantern slides taken at Mount Vernon by Mrs. Harold Lee Berry, Vice Regent for Maine
Gift of Violetta Lansdale Otis

- Photograph of the north lane near the greenhouse slave quarters, ca. 1890–1910
 - Black and white photograph of the east front of the Mansion by Leet Brothers, ca. 1899
- Gift of Scarborough Library, Shepherd University*

FINE AND DECORATIVE ARTS

BANJO CLOCK WITH VIEW OF MOUNT VERNON

Made by Lemuel Curtis, of Concord, Massachusetts, ca. 1815, this beautiful neoclassical style clock features a stunning view of Mount Vernon based on an 1800 aquatint by Francis Jukes
Purchased by the Connoisseur Society of Mount Vernon

ENGLISH CHIPPENDALE-STYLE SIDE CHAIRS

This suite of six elegant mahogany side chairs, made ca. 1755–1760, corresponds beautifully to the “6 Mahogany Chairs” with “Gothic Archd Backs” that George Washington received from London in 1757
Gift: Jess and Grace Pavey Fund

FERDINAND & MIRANDA PLAYING AT CHESS

According to Washington family tradition, this engraving, of a scene from Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*, once hung in the dining room at Mount Vernon
Gift of Caroline Harrison Tucker Miller and Peter G. Miller

ITALIAN PORTRAIT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

Engraved by Girolamo Carrattoni, 1796–1809
Purchased by the A. Alfred Taubman Acquisition Endowment Fund



CORAL AND BELLS SILVER RATTLE

Made by Sandylands Drinkwater, London, ca. 1750; similar to an example with a history of use in the Custis family
Gift: Jess and Grace Pavey Fund



VIEWS OF THE OLD TOMB

Antonio Zeno Schindler's oil painting of *George Washington's First Grave at Mount Vernon, Va., ca. 1867–1899*, takes an unusual vantage point, from the northwest. The top of the tomb is barely visible, just behind and above a staircase that has been removed
Gift in memory of Ruth Miller Easton

BRONZE COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL

Designed by Daniel Eccleston, struck in England, ca. 1805
Gift of Mr. Felipe Proper de Callejon



RELIEF SCULPTURE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

Marble, early 19th century
Gift of Geren Fauth, Vice Regent Emerita for Minnesota

GEORGE WASHINGTON SILHOUETTE

Created by Samuel Folwell of Philadelphia and dated 1791, this silhouette is believed to have been created in Charleston, South Carolina, where Folwell was working at the time of George Washington's visit, as part of his southern tour
Gift of Dr. David Nelson of Tuscaloosa, Alabama

COMMEMORATIVE CHINA

English porcelain teacups and saucer with views of Mount Vernon after William Birch, ca. 1805–1825
Gift of Robert Rumpf

GLASS RUMMERS

England or Ireland, 1790–1820
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Ridinger III

THE HERDSMAN

This engraving matches the description for one of the prints purchased by Washington in Philadelphia in 1797 and subsequently hung in the "Chintz Room". Published in London in 1774, it was not previously represented in Mount Vernon's collection
Gift: Jess and Grace Pavey Fund

SELECTED LOANS TO THE ASSOCIATION

The Association continues to be grateful to the many individuals and institutions that have placed on loan to Mount Vernon original Washington artifacts, books, documents, and period objects. We would like to acknowledge in particular the following objects loaned in 2015:

SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI EAGLES AND MANUSCRIPTS

- Two gold and enamel Eagles designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant and made by Duval and Francastel, Paris, 1784; one owned by General Nathanael Greene
Courtesy of Brian and Barbara Hendelson
- Draft of "The Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati," written by Baron von Steuben, 1783
- George Washington to Nathanael Greene, March 27, 1784
Courtesy of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

- First printing of the United States Constitution, by Dunlap & Claypoole, Philadelphia, September 17–19, 1787
 - Connecticut printing of the United States Constitution, broadside, 1787
 - London printing of the Declaration of Independence, in *The Remembrancer*, 1776
 - Rhode Island printing of the Declaration of Independence, in *Acts of the General Assembly*, 1777
- Courtesy of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History*

GEORGE WASHINGTON MANUSCRIPTS

- George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation, signed October 3, 1789, together with the first printed version, in the *Gazette of the United States*, October 7, 1789
- Courtesy of an anonymous lender through Seth Kaller, Inc.*
- Letter to Anthony Whiting, November 18, 1792
- Courtesy of the Pierpont Morgan Library, New York*
- Letters to Thomas Jefferson, October 13, 1789 (draft) and June 16, 1793 (page 1)
- Courtesy of the National Archives, Washington, D.C.*
- Letter from George William Fairfax, January 22, 1786
 - List of plants from John Bartram, March 1792
 - Letter to John Christian Ehlers, November 7, 1792
- Courtesy of the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.*

VIEWS OF "OLD VIRGINIA"

Oil paintings of sites related to George Washington, by John Gadsby Chapman, 1833–1835

- *View of Birthplace of Washington*
 - *Distant View of Mount Vernon*
 - *Tomb of Washington*
 - *The Bed Chamber of Washington . . .*
 - and other scenes in Fredericksburg and Yorktown
- Courtesy of the Homeland Foundation, from the Wethersfield Estate, Amenia, NY*

VIEWS OF MOUNT VERNON

- Silk embroidered and watercolor picture, by Mary W. Innes, Philadelphia, ca. 1820
- Courtesy of Sarah Miller Coulson, Vice Regent for Pennsylvania*
- Aquatint, engraved by Francis Jukes, after Alexander Robertson, London, 1800
- Courtesy of Mr. Leonard Milberg*

VIEW OF THE NORTH FRONT OF BELVIDERE, RICHMOND

Watercolor by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, 1795–1798

Courtesy of Dr. Peter C. Anthony

MEZZOTINT PORTRAITS

George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, mezzotints engraved by Edward Savage, London, 1793

Courtesy of Kelly and Randy Schrimsher

SILVER TEAPOT AND BOWL

made by Joseph Richardson, Philadelphia, 1796

Courtesy of Ms. Martha Custis Peter

LONG RIFLE AND POWDER HORN

Rifle made by George Frederick Fainot, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, ca. 1770

Collection of Bruce and Natalie Larson

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S COPY OF *NEW PRINCIPLES OF GARDENING*

by Batty Langley, 1728

Courtesy of Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Welcoming Leaders

For more than two centuries, world leaders have made pilgrimages to Mount Vernon to honor Washington's global legacy. This tradition continued in 2015 as we welcomed two royal delegations and other notable dignitaries.

On March 18, His Royal Highness Charles, the prince of Wales, visited Mount Vernon with his wife, Camilla, the duchess of Cornwall. Nodding to the prince's interest in agriculture, they toured the Mansion, gardens, and farm site.

On June 22, Secretary of State John Kerry and Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew welcomed their Chinese counterparts, State Councilor Yang Jiechi and Vice Premier Wang Yang, for a special dinner on the East Lawn.

On September 15, King Felipe VI of Spain and his wife, Queen Letizia, began their visit to Washington, D.C., with a trip to George Washington's home and the Washington Library. As Mount Vernon celebrated Veterans Day on November 11, we greeted a special guest, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and his wife, Sara.

In addition to these notables, we were also privileged to welcome some of the nation's brightest emerging leaders. Thanks to the generous support of David M. Rubenstein, we introduced the Mount Vernon Leadership Fellows program, a five-and-a-half-week residential experience for outstanding rising college juniors. In its inaugural year, the program attracted 105 strong applicants from more than 60 universities. From this pool, we selected 15 fellows, who came to Mount Vernon to learn about George Washington, study leadership, and work on capstone projects reflective of their personal interests, with assistance from hand-picked mentors.



(ALEXANDER MOROZOV)



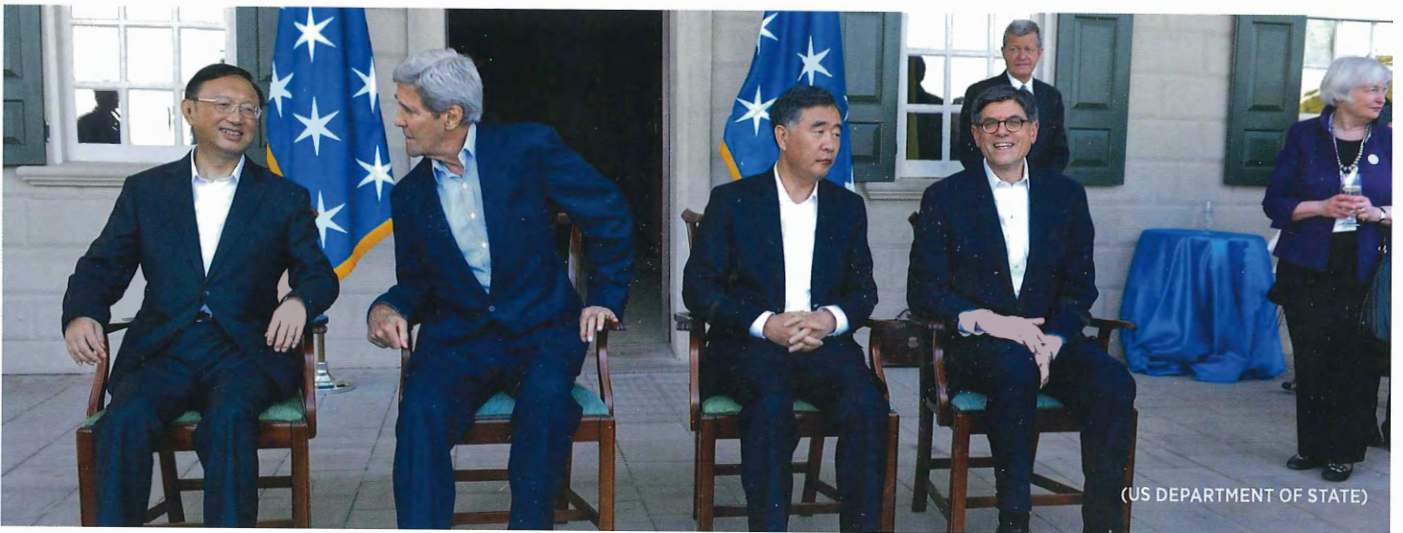
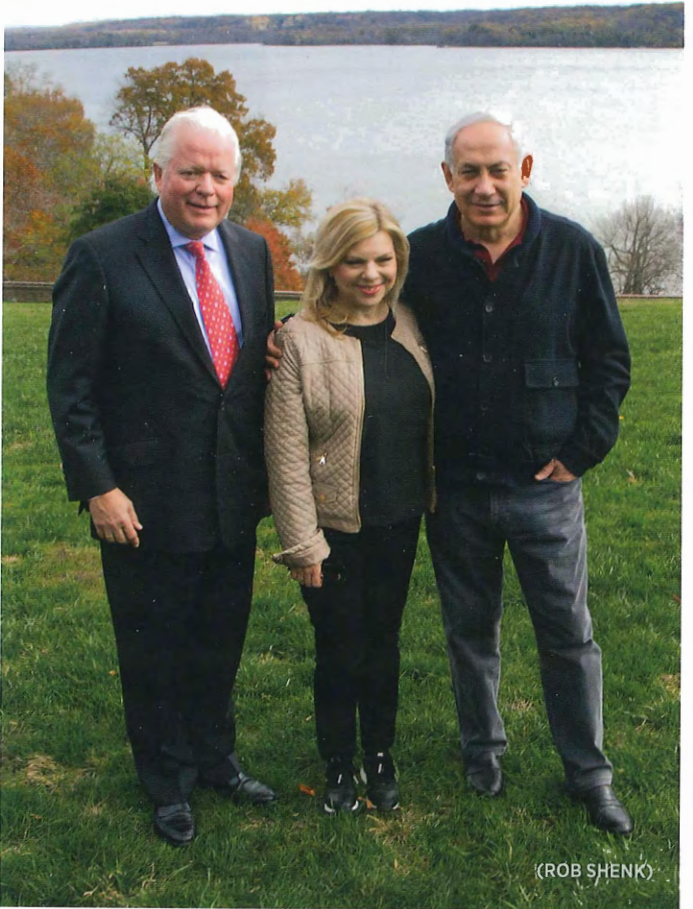
(BUDDY SECOR)



(MVLA)

2015 LEADERSHIP FELLOWS (LISTED ALPHABETICALLY)

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MARC CHEN, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
HELEN KRAMER, OBERLIN COLLEGE
LYLE LI, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
SEAN PATRICK MCGINLEY, COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES
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MADI VORVA, POMONA COLLEGE
ELENI ZOTOS, UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



Financial Highlights

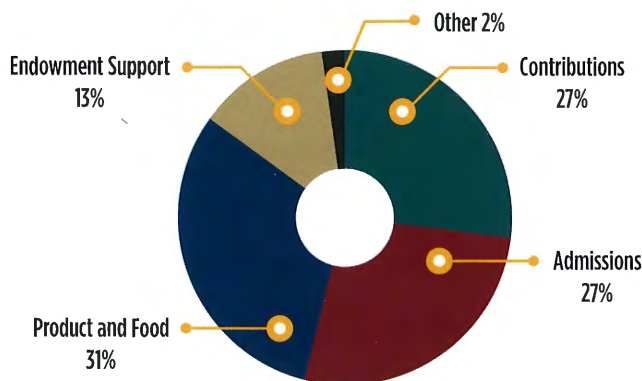
George Washington valued fiscal responsibility in all of his business ventures. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association carries on this timeless tradition of responsible spending and engages in robust fundraising.

We are proud to have spent 87 cents of every dollar received directly on programs connected to our mission, including historic preservation and collections initiatives, educational outreach efforts, and enhancements to the guest experience. In recognition of our responsible stewardship, we received Charity Navigator's prestigious Four Star designation again in 2015.

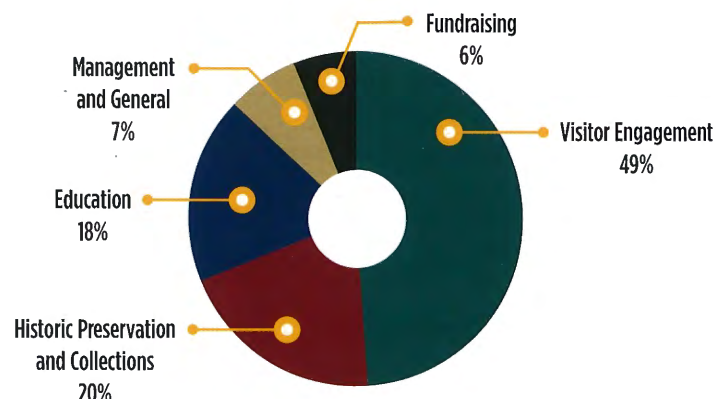
Your contributions are put to work. Although the costs of doing business continue to rise, in 2015 we allocated just 6 percent of the funds we raised to inspire more generous citizens to support our mission. Thanks to our conservative financial management, our administrative costs accounted for a mere 7 percent of our total expenditures.

Our 2015 audited financial statements are available at mountvernon.org or by request from our Finance Department.

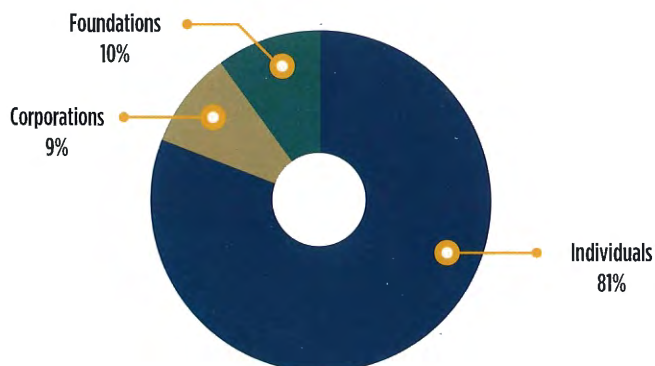
2015 OPERATING REVENUE \$51,500,000



2015 OPERATING EXPENSES \$46,000,000 (EXCLUDING DEPRECIATION)



2015 GIVING BY SOURCE - \$14,133,861



41,190

individuals, corporations, and foundations contributed more than \$14 million to the Mount Vernon cause.

\$0

Mount Vernon receives no government funding.

2015 Stats at a Glance

1,068,641

TOTAL GUESTS

339,591

STUDENTS

41,190

DONORS
FROM ALL 50 STATES

5,662,362

WEB SESSIONS
UP 36 PERCENT

26,685

VOLUNTEER HOURS

146,011

FACEBOOK FANS

21,755

TWITTER FOLLOWERS

849

GALLONS OF
WHISKEY PRODUCED

1,600

POUNDS OF PRODUCE
DONATED TO FOOD BANKS

2015 Year in Review



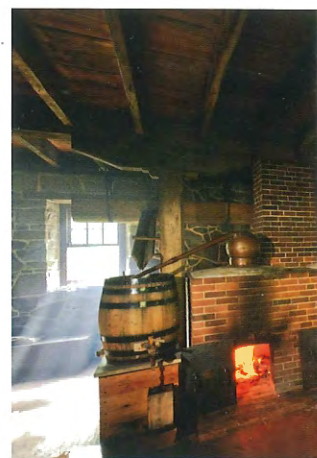
JANUARY

The staircase in the Mansion's central passage is restored.



FEBRUARY

The Washington Library partners with the University of Virginia Press to publish *The General in the Garden*.



APRIL 1

Washington's Distillery opens for the season with new free shuttle service for the estate.



FREE WIFI

FEBRUARY

Mount Vernon establishes full Wifi coverage, installing more than 130 access points across the estate.



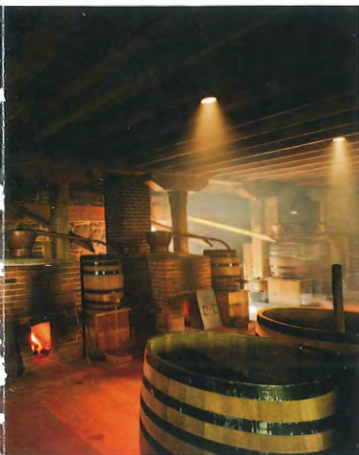
MARCH 1

The inaugural Martha Washington Lecture takes place at the Washington Library.

MARCH 18

Charles, prince of Wales, Camilla, duchess of Cornwall, visit Mount Vernon.





rom

APRIL 27
The *Mount Vernon App* debuts on the App Store and Google Play.



MAY 23
The Winter Patriots, Mount Vernon's latest digital presentation, is released.

ales, and
Cornwall,



APRIL
Mount Vernon in Miniature returns to the Ford Orientation Center after a major restoration.

MAY 2-3
More than 500 re-enactors and thousands of spectators gather at Mount Vernon for a new Revolutionary War-themed event, *A Call to Arms*.



MAY 29-31
Mount Vernon hosts its Triennial Decorative Arts Symposium at the Washington Library.



JUNE 5

The first class of Mount Vernon Leadership Fellows arrives for a five-and-a-half-week summer program.

JUNE 9

L'Hermione docks off the shores of the estate as part of its voyage up the East Coast.



AUGUST

Restoration work on the cupola concludes with the exciting discovery of 19th-century graffiti on the interior walls.



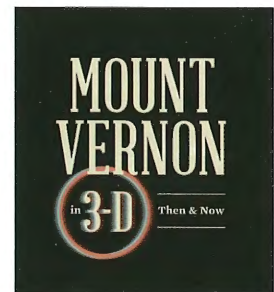
JUNE 22

Secretary of State John F. Kerry and Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew welcome Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi and Vice Premier Wang Yang to a special dinner at Mount Vernon.



JULY

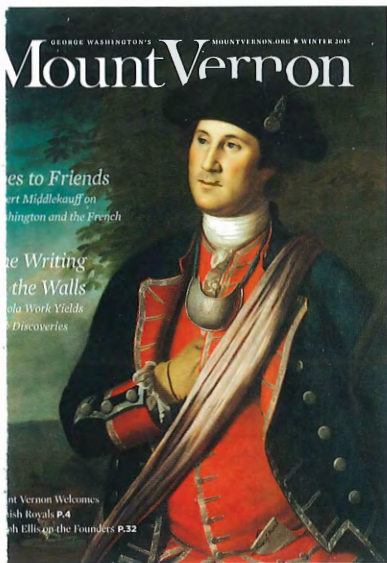
Rising 5th-grade students take part in Camp Washington, a week-long summer program at the estate.



AUGUST 30

Mount Vernon in 3-D, an outdoor exhibition of historic stereoviews, opens.





SEPTEMBER
Mount Vernon magazine
unveiled.



OCTOBER

Spirits enthusiasts cheer the
release of Mount Vernon's
single malt Scotch whiskey.

NOVEMBER 11

Israeli prime minister
Benjamin Netanyahu visits
Mount Vernon.



DECEMBER 14

Mount Vernon, Washington
College, and the Gilder
Lehrman Institute award
Lin-Manuel Miranda a
Washington Prize for his
acclaimed musical, *Hamilton*.



SEPTEMBER 15

King Felipe VI and
Queen Letizia of Spain
visit Mount Vernon.

NOVEMBER 14

Horses & Hounds, a
special event highlighting
Washington's horsemanship
and love for animals, debuts.





PHOTO BY ALEXANDER MOROZOV.

Thank You

Our 2015 accomplishments were made possible by generous contributions from patriotic individuals, corporations, and foundations. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association relies on this support and does not accept tax dollars or government funding. We are grateful for your commitment to our mission.

1732 Society

The 1732 Society recognizes extraordinary contributions of \$25,000 and above toward our mission of education and preservation from individuals, foundations, and corporations.

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The Founders, Washington Committee, is comprised of patriotic women from the National Capital area. Since 1980, their fundraising has supported a multitude of programs and projects furthering the Association's mission. Their ardent work has added inestimably to the Mount Vernon experience.

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Named after the elite group of approximately 150 officers responsible for ensuring the safety of George Washington, today's members of The Life Guard Society hold fundraising events twice a year to support specific projects at Mount Vernon and also support the estate through personal contributions. Membership in the Life Guard Society is not considered an honorary role, but rather a call to action—members give generously of time, talent, and resources to help with a wide variety of signature projects focused on Mount Vernon's mission.

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(STEPHEN ELLIOT)

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Members of the Ann Pamela Cunningham Society have kindly informed us that they have remembered Mount Vernon in their estate plans or have provided for a planned gift, such as a charitable gift annuity. Miss Cunningham founded the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union in 1853 and tirelessly gathered support from across America to rescue George Washington's home and to ensure that his legacy endures.

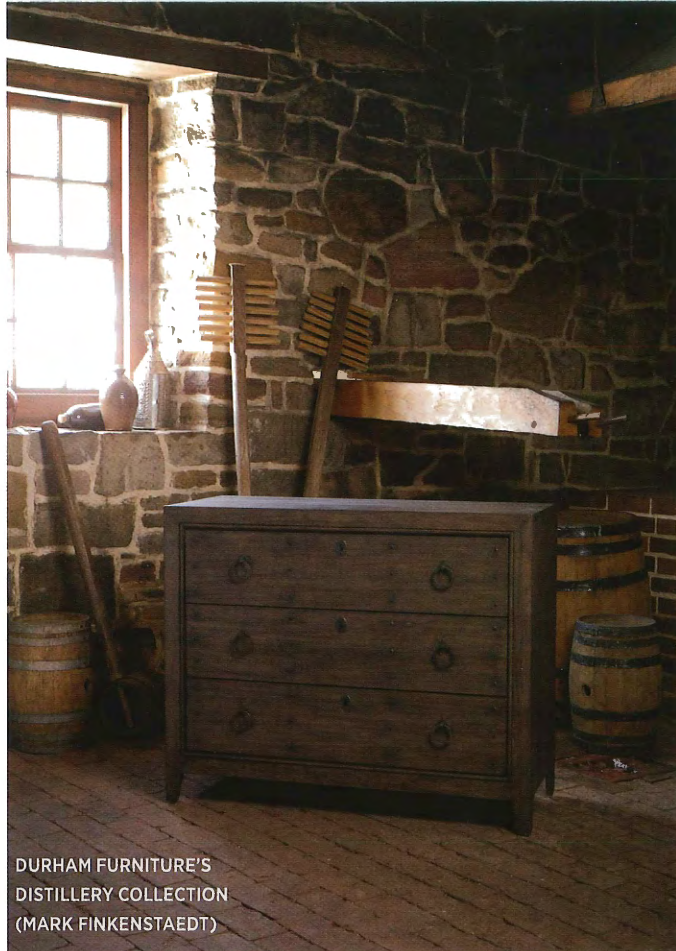
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The Mount Vernon Volunteer Program is now in its 24th year. Our team of approximately 400 volunteers provided nearly 25,000 hours of support to virtually every program and activity on the estate in 2015. Many public events could not occur without the invaluable support of this program.

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Education: Ann Haunschild Bookout, Chair; Claudia Puig Amundsen; Maribeth Armstrong Borthwick; Margaret Appleton Allison; Mary Elizabeth Creekmore Henke; Catherine Hamilton Mayton; Anne Neal Petri

Executive Committee: Barbara Bourgeois Lucas, Regent; Melody Sawyer Richardson, Secretary; Susan Marshall Townsend, Treasurer
Members-at-Large: Andrea Notman Sahin; Ann Cady Scott

Finance: Sarah Miller Coulson, Chair; Ann Haunschild Bookout; Maribeth Armstrong Borthwick; Lucia Bosqui Henderson; Cameron Kock Mayer; Margaret Hartman Nichols; Susan Marshall Townsend

Governance: Maribeth Armstrong Borthwick, Chair; Margaret

Appleton Allison; Ann Haunschild Bookout; Anne Neal Petri;
 Andrea Notman Sahin; Ann Cady Scott; Catherine Marlette Waddell
Investment: Susan Marshall Townsend, Chair; Maribeth Armstrong
 Borthwick; Sarah Miller Coulson; Mary Elizabeth Creekmore
 Henke; Helen Herboth Laughery; Cameron Kock Mayer; Margaret
 Hartman Nichols; Catherine Marlette Waddell
Preservation: Boyce Lineberger Ansley, Chair; Lucia Bosqui
 Henderson; Virginia Dawson Lane; Liz Rollins Mauran; Susan
 Stevens Reeder; Laura Peebles Rutherford; Jean Armfield Sherrill
Strategic Planning: Clare N. Cooley Edwards, Chair; Boyce
 Lineberger Ansley; Lucia Bosqui Henderson; Liz Rollins Mauran;
 Catherine Hamilton Mayton; Anne Neal Petri; Andrea Notman Sahin
Visitor Engagement: Ann Cady Scott, Chair; Elizabeth Whitesides
 Holdsworth; Helen Herboth Laughery; Margaret Hartman Nichols;
 Catherine Marlette Waddell; Gail Berry West

GOVERNOR'S BOARD OF VISITORS

Buford R. "Beau" Blevins, III	Richmond, VA
Mr. Glen Bolger	Alexandria, VA
Sheila B. Coates	Herndon, VA
Julie Dime	Alexandria, VA
The Honorable Paul Clinton Harris, Sr.	Richmond, VA
Mark A. Herzog	Henrico, VA
Aaron Leibowitz	Alexandria, VA

Advisory Committee

Ms. Mary Davis Holt, Chair (2013–2016)
 Alexandria, Virginia

2013–2016

Mr. Bettis C. Rainsford*	Edgefield, SC
The Honorable John W. Warner*	Alexandria, VA
Mr. David B. Warren*	Houston, TX
Ms. Karen Buchwald Wright*	Mount Vernon, OH

2014–2017

Mr. David W. Dangremond*	Old Lyme, CT
Mr. John H. Guy IV*	Alexandria, VA
The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne*	Washington, DC
Mr. R. Michael Leonard*	Bethania, NC
Ms. Alice Starr*	Waco, TX
RDML Garry R. White, USN (Ret.)*	Watertown, SD

2015–2018

Ms. Carmen Murphy*	South Bend, IN
Ms. Sherri Parker Lee*	Knoxville, TN
Mr. Alan R. Griffith*	Centreville, MD

* Second term

Senior Staff

Curt Viebranz, President
 Rebecca Aloisi, Vice President, Marketing
 Jamie Bosket, Vice President, Guest Experience
 Douglas Bradburn, Founding Director, The Fred W. Smith National
 Library for the Study of George Washington
 Matt Briney, Vice President, New Media
 Carol Borchert Cadou, Senior Vice President,
 Historic Preservation and Collections

Megan Dunn, Chief of Staff
 Susan Magill, Vice President, Advancement
 Phil Manno, Chief Financial Officer
 Rob Shenk, Senior Vice President, Visitor Engagement
 Joseph Sliger, Vice President, Operations & Maintenance
 K. Allison Wickens, Vice President, Education

Record of Members

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

REGENTS

Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, 1853–1874; resigned 1874; died May 1, 1875
 Mrs. J. Scott Laughton, (née Lily Macalester, later Madame Berghmans), 1874; died 1891
 Mrs. Howard Townsend, 1891–1909; died 1912
 Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys, 1909; died 1927
 Mrs. Alice Haliburton Richards, 1927; died 1936
 Mrs. Horace Mann Towner, 1937; died 1942
 Mrs. Lucien M. Hanks, 1943–1948; died 1959
 Mrs. Albert Harkness, (formerly Mrs. Thomas Ives Hare Powel), 1948–1958; died 1974
 Mrs. Francis F. Beirne, 1958–1968; died 1969
 Mrs. Thomas Turner Cooke, 1968–1976; died 1993
 Mrs. John H. Guy, Jr., 1976–1982
 Mrs. Thomas Dunaway Anderson, 1982–1986; died 2013
 Mrs. Robert Channing Seamans, Jr., 1986–1990; died 2010
 Mrs. Clarence Morton Bishop, 1990–1993; died 2007
 Mrs. H. Taylor Morrisette, 1993–1996
 Mrs. Robert E. Lee IV, 1996–1999
 Mrs. James M. Walton, 1999–2004
 Mrs. Stanley N. Gaines, 2004–2007
 Mrs. Shepard B. Ansley, 2007–2010
 Mrs. John F. Bookout III, 2010–2013
 Mrs. Benjamin F. Lucas II, 2013

VICE REGENTS

ALABAMA

Madame Henry S. LeVert, 1858; died 1877
 Mrs. Hilary Herbert, 1882; died 1884
 Miss Leila Herbert, 1894; died 1897
 Mrs. Robert D. Johnston, 1900; died 1934
 Mrs. Morris Williams Bush, 1946; resigned 1959; died 1971
 Mrs. Preston H. Haskell, Jr., 1963; died 1971
 Mrs. H. Taylor Morrisette, 1983; resigned 2001; Regent 1993–1996; Vice Regent Emerita 2002
 Mrs. J. Schley Rutherford, 2005

ARIZONA

Mrs. Arthur Newton Pack, 1962; resigned 1984; Vice Regent Emerita 1985; died 2000

ARKANSAS

Mrs. Robert Ward Johnson, 1859; died 1862
 Mrs. Charles Gordon Scott, 1872; resigned 1878; died 1910
 Mrs. Celsus Price Perrie, 1919; resigned 1922; died 1938
 Mrs. J. Fairfax Loughborough, 1932; died 1962
 Mrs. Henry Hollenberg (formerly Mrs. John McCaughey Harrison), 1970; resigned 1982; Associate Vice Regent 1982; died 2011
 Mrs. Sam Buchanan, 1995; resigned 2006; Vice Regent Emerita 2007
 Mrs. Michael R. Mayton, 2012

CALIFORNIA

Mrs. William Blanding, 1859; resigned 1884; died 1885
 Mrs. George Hearst, 1889; resigned 1918; died 1919
 Mrs. Charles S. Wheeler, 1920; resigned 1940; died 1952
 Mrs. Lockwood de Forest, 1956; died 1984
 Mrs. Richard W. Call, 1984; resigned 2001; Vice Regent Emerita 2002
 Mrs. William H. Borthwick, 2002

COLORADO

Mrs. Nathaniel P. Hill, 1889; died 1908
 Mrs. Horton Pope, 1919; resigned 1947; died 1950
 Mrs. David A. Pfaelzer, 1970; resigned 1986; Vice Regent Emerita 1986

Mrs. Eileen M. Olander, formerly Vice Regent for Kansas, 1986; resigned 1995; Vice Regent Emerita 1995

Mrs. Andrew W. Armour IV, 1996; resigned 2000

CONNECTICUT

Mrs. Samuel G. Goodrich, 1858; resigned 1864; died 1868
 Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson, 1870; died 1913
 Miss Annie Burr Jennings, 1915; died 1939
 Mrs. Wilmarth S. Lewis, 1942; died 1959
 Mrs. Clifton McCausland Bockstoce, 1965; resigned 1990; Vice Regent Emerita 1990; died 1995
 Mrs. Jared I. Edwards, 1992

DELAWARE

Mrs. Joseph P. Comegys, 1858; died 1888
 Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys, 1888; resigned 1927; Regent 1909; died 1927
 Mrs. Antoine Lentilhon Foster, 1911; died 1934
 Mrs. Thomas F. Bayard, 1937; resigned 1958; died 1975
 Mrs. C. Lalor Burdick, 1961; resigned 1983; Vice Regent Emerita 1985; died 2007
 Miss Elizabeth N. du Pont, 1985; resigned 1986; died 1989
 Mrs. Nelson T. Shields III, 1987; resigned 2001; Vice Regent Emerita 2002
 Mrs. Calhoun W. Wick, 2001; resigned 2004
 Mrs. P. Coleman Townsend, Jr., 2005

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mrs. George W. Riggs, Acting Vice Regent 1858; appointed 1867; resigned 1868; died 1871
 Mrs. William H. Emory, 1870; resigned 1871; died 1900
 Mrs. Joseph K. Barnes, 1873; died 1912
 Miss Jane A. Riggs, 1912; died 1930
 Miss Helen Louise Sargent, 1931; died 1948
 Miss Constance Ellen Tyler, 1952; died 1963
 Mrs. Randall H. Hagner, Jr., 1965; resigned 1991; died 2007
 Mrs. Richard H. Streeter, 1992; resigned 2000; Associate Vice Regent 2000
 Mrs. Joseph W. Henderson III, 1999; resigned 2014 to become Vice Regent for Virginia
 Mrs. Togo D. West, Jr., 2014

FLORIDA

Madame Achille Murat, 1858; died 1867
 Mrs. David Levy Yulee, 1868; died 1884
 Mrs. James M. Baker, 1888; died 1901
 Mrs. Thomas Palmer Denham, 1913; resigned 1948; died 1950
 Mrs. LeRoy Collins, 1961; resigned 1982; Vice Regent Emerita 1985; died 2009
 Mrs. John K. Aurell, 1985; resigned 2000; Vice Regent Emerita 2000
 Mrs. Stanley N. Gaines, 2000; resigned 2013; Regent 2004–2007; Vice Regent Emerita 2014
 Mrs. Richard G. Amundsen, 2014

GEORGIA

Mrs. William J. Eve, 1858; died 1889
 Mrs. Joseph John Wilder, 1891; died 1914
 Mrs. Jefferson Randolph Anderson, 1919; resigned 1949; died 1956
 Mrs. Barnwell Cubbedge, 1958; resigned 1969; died 1985

Mrs. Frank Anderson Chisholm, 1971; resigned 1986; Vice Regent Emerita 1986
Mrs. Shepard B. Ansley, 1987; Regent 2007–2010

IDAHO

Mrs. Richard R. Simplot, 1999; resigned 2010; Vice Regent Emerita 2011

ILLINOIS

Mrs. William Barry, 1859; died 1883
Mrs. Levi Z. Leiter, 1885; died 1913
Mrs. George A. Carpenter, 1916; resigned 1947; died 1948
Mrs. Henry Porter Isham, 1949; resigned 1972; died 1986
Mrs. Erskine Phelps Wilder, Jr., 1976; resigned 1992; Vice Regent Emerita 1992; died 2005
Mrs. Tyler R. Cain, 1994; resigned 2001; Associate Vice Regent 2001; died 2013
Mrs. Frederick H. Waddell, 2013

INDIANA

Mrs. Graham Newell Fitch, 1859; died 1880
Mrs. Charles Denby, 1901; died 1906
Mrs. Benjamin D. Walcott, 1914; resigned 1932; died 1933
Mrs. Benjamin D. Hitz, 1936; resigned 1978; Honorary Vice Regent 1978; died 1979
Mrs. James T. Neal, 1982; resigned 1994; Vice Regent Emerita, 1994
Mrs. Alpha Coles Blackburn, 2008; resigned 2014; Vice Regent Emerita 2014

IOWA

Mrs. VerPlanck Van Antwerp, 1858; died 1870
Mrs. John F. Dillon, 1872; resigned 1873; died 1898
Mrs. Horace Mann Towner, 1913; elected Regent in 1937; died 1942
Mrs. Charles Leslie Brockett (formerly Mrs. Douglas Nelson Gibson), 1955; resigned 1983; Vice Regent Emerita 1985; died 2000

KANSAS

Mrs. Milan Lester Ward, 1876; died 1910
Mrs. John V. Abrahams, 1916; resigned 1921
Mrs. John Reynolds Shelton, 1923; resigned 1930; died 1936
Mrs. Earl K. Lord, 1930; died 1956
Mrs. Eileen M. Olander, 1970; resigned 1986 to become Vice Regent for Colorado
Mrs. J. Craig McIlvain, 1993; resigned 2003

KENTUCKY

Mrs. Alexander Jeffrey, 1858; resigned 1885; died 1894
Mrs. George W. Woodward, 1885; resigned 1889, re-appointed 1891; died 1897
Mrs. William F. Barret, 1901; died 1920
Miss Mary Mason Scott, 1923; died 1934
Mrs. Mason Barret, 1938; resigned 1953; died 1955
Mrs. Walter N. Haldeman, 1960; resigned 1974; died 1984
Mrs. Phillip B. Newman III, 1985; resigned 2000; Vice Regent Emerita 2000

LOUISIANA

Mrs. Isaac F. Morse, 1858; resigned 1872; died 1893
Mrs. David Urquhart, 1873; resigned 1876
Mrs. Tobias G. Richardson, 1880; died 1910
Miss Annie Ragan King, 1912; died 1933
Miss Sarah Duncan Butler, 1936; resigned 1960; died 1966
Mrs. Frank G. Strachan, 1963; resigned 1987; Vice Regent Emerita 1987; died 2000
Mrs. Donald J. Nalty, 1990; resigned 1999; Vice Regent Emerita 1999
Mrs. Charles B. Mayer, 2000

MAINE

Mrs. Josiah S. Little, 1858; resigned 1866; died 1893
Mrs. Lorenzo M. Sweat, 1866; died 1908
Mrs. Alice Haliburton Richards, 1911; Regent 1927; died 1936
Mrs. Harold Lee Berry, 1930; resigned 1968; died 1971
Mrs. William L. Vaughan, 1971; resigned 1987; Vice Regent Emerita 1987; died 2003
Mrs. Everett B. Carson, 1989; resigned 1992
Mrs. David E. Nichols, 2012

MARYLAND

Miss Emily L. Harper, 1866; died 1892
Mrs. George R. Goldsborough, 1893; resigned 1904; died 1906
Mrs. Henry W. Rogers, 1905; died 1931
Mrs. DeCourcy W. Thom, 1935; resigned 1946; died 1963
Mrs. Francis F. Beirne, 1948; Regent 1958–1968; died 1969
Mrs. Robert E. Lee IV (formerly Mrs. Carew C. Rice), 1972; resigned 2006; Regent 1996–1999; Vice Regent Emerita 2007
Mrs. Benjamin F. Lucas II, 2008; Regent 2013

MASSACHUSETTS

Mrs. Horatio Greenough, 1858; resigned 1865; died 1891
Miss Alice M. Longfellow, 1879; died 1928
Mrs. Nathaniel Thayer, 1930; died 1934
Mrs. John Templeman Coolidge, 1940; resigned 1948; died 1964
Mrs. Samuel Cabot, 1949; died 1969
Mrs. Robert Channing Seamans, Jr., 1975; Regent 1986–1990; resigned 1993; Vice Regent Emerita 1993; died 2010
Ms. Elizabeth M. Chapin, 1994; resigned 2008; Vice Regent Emerita 2008
Mrs. Kenan Sahin, 2011

MICHIGAN

Mrs. Elon Farnsworth 1858; resigned 1877; died 1879
Mrs. Joshua Henry Rathbone, 1885; resigned 1918; died 1923
Mrs. Edward H. Parker, 1923; died 1924
Mrs. Benjamin S. Warren, 1925; resigned 1959; died 1968
Mrs. Alexander L. Wiener, 1964; resigned 1989; Vice Regent Emerita 1989; died 1995
Mrs. Lloyd A. Semple, 1990; resigned 2006; Vice Regent Emerita 2007

MINNESOTA

Mrs. Henry H. Sibley, 1859; died 1869
Mrs. Charles Eugene Flandrau, 1889; died 1911
Mrs. Charles Eliot Furness, 1914; died 1935
Miss Anna E. Ramsey Furness, 1940; died 1964
Mrs. David Bradford, 1982; resigned 1992; Associate Vice Regent 1994; died 2004
Mrs. J. Hap Fauth, 1995; resigned 2007; Vice Regent Emerita 2008

MISSISSIPPI

Mrs. William McWillie, 1858; died 1873
Mrs. William Balfour, 1873; resigned 1885; died 1887
Mrs. Kate Walthall Freeman, 1885; resigned 1888; died 1919
Mrs. Benjamin Sherrod Ricks, 1907; resigned 1914; died 1918
Miss Mary Govan Billups, 1916; resigned 1963; died 1971
Mrs. Stewart J. Gilchrist, 1974; resigned 1990; Vice Regent Emerita 1990
Mrs. Stewart Gammill III, 1991; resigned 2011; Vice Regent Emerita 2011
Mrs. Charles G. Reeder, 2011

MISSOURI

Mrs. Robert R. Walton, 1858; resigned 1859; died 1860
Mrs. Wilson Price Hunt, 1860; died 1878
Mrs. Robert Campbell, 1879; died 1882
Mrs. Benjamin Graham, 1893; died 1915
Mrs. Charles Nagel, 1916; resigned 1943; died 1951
Mrs. Marvin E. Holderness, 1948; resigned 1959 to become Vice Regent for Tennessee; died 1970
Mrs. Robert Neill, Jr., 1964; resigned 1973
Mrs. Tom K. Smith, Jr., 1982; resigned 1997; Vice Regent Emerita 1997
Mrs. Hugh Scott, III, 2010

NEBRASKA

Mrs. Robert H. Clarkson, 1894; resigned 1900; died 1902
Mrs. Charles F. Manderson, 1900; died 1916
Mrs. Alexander C. Troup, 1923; died 1950

NEVADA

Mrs. M. E. Hickman, 1866; resigned 1874
Mrs. John P. Jones, 1875; resigned 1876; died 1936

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mrs. Salma Hale, 1858; resigned 1861; died 1865
Mrs. Onslow Stearns, 1866; resigned 1873; died 1895
Mrs. Abby Godwin Winder, 1890; died 1906
Miss Harriet L. Huntress, 1914; died 1922
Mrs. Gordon Woodbury, 1929; resigned 1949; died 1966
Mrs. John Lawrence Sullivan, 1952; resigned 1985; Vice Regent Emerita 1985; died 1994

NEW JERSEY

Miss Phebe A. Ogden, 1858; died 1865
Mrs. Nathaniel Norris Halsted, 1868; died 1891
Mrs. Francis S. Conover, 1893; died 1914
Mrs. Willard Hall Bradford, 1915; resigned 1939; died 1941
Mrs. Thomas Turner Cooke, 1946; resigned 1987; Regent 1968; Vice Regent Emerita 1987; died 1993
Mrs. Stephen K. West, 1989; resigned 2005; Vice Regent Emerita 2006
Mrs. David Garth Holdsworth, 2006

NEW YORK

Miss Mary M. Hamilton (later Mrs. George Lee Schuyler), 1858; resigned 1866; died 1877

Mrs. James Brooks, 1867; resigned 1876; died 1882

Mrs. Howard Townsend, 1876; Regent 1891; resigned 1909; died 1912
Mrs. Philip Schuyler, 1893; resigned 1894
Miss Amy Townsend, 1894; died 1920
Mrs. Henry Gold Danforth, 1922; resigned 1948; died 1961

Ms. Thomas Stilwell Lamont, 1952; died 1972
Mrs. Douglas Williams, 1975; resigned 1994; Vice Regent Emerita 1994; died 2006
Mrs. Randolph H. Guthrie, 1996; resigned 2008; Vice Regent Emerita 2009

NORTH CAROLINA

Mrs. P. K. Dickinson, 1858; resigned 1859; died 1881
Mrs. William Richmond Walker, 1859; died 1908
Mrs. Alexander Boyd Andrews, 1909; died 1915
Mrs. William Ewen Shipp, 1919; died 1936
Mrs. John Witherspoon Labouisse, 1944; resigned 1978; Honorary Vice Regent 1978; died 1985
Mrs. Thomas B. Battle, 1982; resigned 1999; Vice Regent Emerita 1999
Mrs. Everette C. Sherrill, 2002

OHIO

Mrs. George H. Pendleton, 1858; resigned 1863; died 1886
Mrs. Emily R. McIlvaine Hewson, 1866; resigned 1873; died 1904
Mrs. Samuel J. Broadwell, 1875; died 1890
Miss Mary Lloyd Pendleton, 1893; resigned 1897; died 1929
Mrs. James E. Campbell, 1897; resigned 1902; died 1913
Mrs. Lewis W. Irwin, 1907; died 1916
Mrs. Charles J. Livingood, 1919; resigned 1935; died 1936
Mrs. Chester C. Bolton, 1938; died 1977
Mrs. Kenyon C. Bolton, 1978; resigned 1989; Honorary Vice Regent 1989; died 2014
Mrs. Charles D. Weller, 1996; resigned 2001; Associate Vice Regent 2001
Mrs. Melody Sawyer Richardson, 2003

OKLAHOMA

Mrs. Russell Story Tarr, 1947; resigned 1974; died 1988
Mrs. William Vilas Hanks, 1978; resigned 1996; Vice Regent Emerita 1996; died 2006
Mrs. Frank X. Henke III, 1999

OREGON

Miss Mary F. Failing, 1907; died 1947
Mrs. Clarence M. Bishop, 1976; resigned 1996; Regent 1990; Vice Regent Emerita 1994; died 2007
Mrs. James F. Crumpacker, 2001; resigned 2014; Vice Regent Emerita 2014

PENNSYLVANIA

Mrs. J. Scott Laughton (née Lily Lytle Macalester; later, Madame Berghmans), 1859; Second Regent 1874; died 1891
Mrs. J. Dundas Lippincott, 1893; died 1894
Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison, 1896; died 1922
Mrs. William R. Mercer, Jr., 1924; resigned 1928; died 1960
Mrs. Benjamin Franklin Pepper, 1929; resigned 1948; died 1955
Mrs. Henry Norris Platt, 1948; resigned 1983; died 1984
Mrs. Robert McAdoo (formerly Mrs. F. Woodson Hancock, Jr.), 1985; resigned 1988
Mrs. James M. Walton, 1991; Regent 1999–2004; resigned 2007; Vice Regent Emerita 2008
Mrs. Frank L. Coulson, Jr., 2011

RHODE ISLAND

Mrs. George I. Chace, 1858; died 1893
Mrs. William Ames, 1894; died 1904
Mrs. John Carter Brown, 1907; resigned 1935; Honorary Vice Regent 1935; died 1936
Mrs. Albert Harkness (formerly Mrs. Thomas Ives Hare Powel), 1936; Regent 1948–1958; resigned 1971; died 1974
Mrs. Richard Alexander, 1978; resigned 1996; Vice Regent Emerita 1996
Mrs. Frank Mauran IV, 2009

SOUTH CAROLINA

Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, Regent 1853–1874; resigned 1874; died 1875
Mrs. James Chesnut, Sr., 1860; died 1864
Mrs. Francis Wilkinson Pickens, 1866; died 1899
Mrs. John Julius Pringle, 1901; died 1921
Miss Virginia Leigh Porcher, 1924; died 1940
Mrs. Benjamin Allston Moore, 1948; resigned 1967; died 1987
Mrs. Daniel W. Hollis, 1970; resigned 1985; Vice Regent Emerita 1985
Mrs. Benjamin A. Hagood, 1987; resigned 2002; Vice Regent Emerita 2003
Mrs. Charles G. Lane, 2003

TENNESSEE

Mrs. Francis B. Fogg, 1858; died 1872
Mrs. Aaron V. Brown, 1874; died 1889
Mrs. Thomas Shapard Webb (née Mary Polk Yeatman), 1893; died 1917
Mrs. Horace Van Deventer, 1920; died 1956
Mrs. Marvin E. Holderness, former Vice Regent for Missouri, 1959; died 1970
Mrs. Alex Pirtle, Jr, 1980; resigned 2000; Vice Regent Emerita 2000; died 2012
Mrs. David Bowlin, 2003; resigned 2003
Mrs. William Lipscomb Davis, Jr., 2006; resigned 2012; Vice Regent Emerita 2013

TEXAS

Miss Ella Hutchins, 1866; resigned 1872; died 1913
Miss Mary E. Maverick, 1873; resigned 1873; died 1891
Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey, 1896; Honorary Vice Regent 1937; died 1938
Mrs. John Mirza Bennett, 1940; died 1963
Mrs. Thomas Dunaway Anderson, 1967; Regent 1982–1986; resigned 1991; Vice Regent Emerita 1991; died 2013
Mrs. W. Temple Webber, Jr., 1992; resigned 2001; Associate Vice Regent 2001
Mrs. John F. Bookout III, 2002; Regent 2010–2013

VERMONT

Mrs. Hampden Cutts, 1859; resigned 1878; died 1879

Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, 1878; resigned 1884; died 1905
Mrs. Cornelius Low King, 1885; died 1896
Miss Mary Evarts, 1911; resigned 1923; reappointed 1924; died 1928
Mrs. Horace Brown, 1930; resigned 1940; died 1943
Mrs. James Shepard Dennis, 1946; died 1946
Mrs. A. John Holden, Jr., 1961; resigned 1978; Associate Vice Regent 1993; died 2004
Mrs. Arthur J. Dewey, Jr., 1984; resigned 1993; Associate Vice Regent 1994
Mrs. Frederick West, 1998; resigned 2000

VIRGINIA

Mrs. William F. Ritchie, 1858; resigned 1866; died 1870
Mrs. Thomson Francis Mason, 1872; died 1873
Mrs. Charles B. Ball, 1874; died 1918
Mrs. William R. Cox, 1921; died 1925
Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, 1927; died 1943
Mrs. Edward Clifford Anderson, 1947; resigned 1960; died 1994
Mrs. John H. Guy, Jr., 1963; Regent 1976; resigned 1995; Vice Regent Emerita 1995
Mrs. P. William Moore, Jr., 1996; resigned 2014; Vice Regent Emerita 2014
Mrs. Joseph W. Henderson III, formerly Vice Regent for the District of Columbia, 2014

WASHINGTON

Mrs. John Leary, 1907; died 1935
Mrs. Stanley D. Lyle, 1944; died 1955

Mrs. James Evan Allison, 1985

WEST VIRGINIA

Mrs. Lewis William Washington, 1870; died 1898
Mrs. Eugene Van Rensselaer, 1900; died 1923
Miss Constance Lee Peterkin, 1924; resigned 1946; died 1948
Mrs. Augustine Jaquelin Todd, 1955; resigned 1985; Vice Regent Emerita 1985; died 1987
Mrs. Robert W. Lawson III, 1987; resigned 2009; Vice Regent Emerita 2009

WISCONSIN

Mrs. Alexander Mitchell, 1858; died 1902
Mrs. Lucien M. Hanks, 1914; Regent 1943; resigned 1956; died 1959
Mrs. John Cunningham Lobb, 1960; resigned 1962; died 2005
Mrs. Douglas Seaman, 1989; resigned 2001; Vice Regent Emerita 2001
Mrs. Thomas E. Petri, 2008

WYOMING

Mrs. Thomas S. Taliaferro, Jr., 1936; resigned 1950; died 1953
Mrs. John F. Mars, 2003; resigned 2012; Vice Regent Emerita 2013
Mrs. Helen H. Laughery, 2013



Founder's Farewell Address



To The Council of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of June, 1874:

LADIES:

It was my intention as well as my duty to have met you at this time, and conformed in person to the legal requisition accompanying a resignation so important as mine, but Providence does not permit.

I am at present not only unequal to such a journey, but the serious state of my health requires me, instead of turning my face towards the "spot" for which, since 1853, I have lived, labored and almost died, to seek the best medical skill, with hope of prolonging, if possible, a life yet needed to finish what I began so many long years ago. One more duty is before me—one I regard as important—though circumstances have combined to make it now a very sad one.

It would have been a pleasure to have met, once more, those who have labored with me in our vineyard from the "early hour," though now their numbers are so few; those who appreciated my work; its motives, its sacrifices; whether they were of the "early" or "eleventh" hour sister laborers; and to have taken a kindly farewell of all whose hearts have been, like my own, single unto their patriotic work—but it is not to be.

I will not yet, however, utterly resign the hope that I may be permitted to reappear among you some day, with my last self-imposed task performed; ready to say, "Now let thy servant depart in peace."

But in parting, I feel it due to you as to me; to the responsibilities I solemnly assumed, which were so important in their results; to those you have taken upon yourselves, to say a few words as to those responsibilities, or duties laid down in the beginning of our work—not to be lightly regarded, for they were pledges to future generations as well as to ours. The minds and hearts which conceived the rescue of the Home of Washington; of the completion of a worthy "tribute" to public integrity, private virtue; an expression of the gratitude due and felt by a country destined to act such an important part in the drama of the world; conceived it with all the reverence felt in older regions for the resting places of their honored dead; where only pious hands are permitted to be in "charge," so as to have them carried down to admiring ages in the same condition as when left.

Such was the pledge made to the American heart when an appeal was made to it to save the Home and Tomb of Washington, of the Father of his Country, from all changes, whether by law or desecration. Such, to the last owner of Mt. Vernon, ere he was willing to permit it to pass from his hands. Such to the Legislature of his mother State, ere she gave us legal rights over it. Such we are bound to keep. Our honor is concerned, as well as our intelligence and legal obligations. The mansion, and the grounds around it, should be religiously guarded from changes—should be kept as Washington left them.

Ladies, the Home of Washington is in your charge. See to it that you keep it the Home of Washington! Let no irreverent hand change it; no vandal hands desecrate it the fingers of—progress! Those who go to the Home in which he lived and died, wish to see in what he lived and died! Let one spot in this grand country of ours be saved from "change!" Upon you rests this duty.

When the Centennial comes, bringing with it its thousands from the ends of the earth, to whom the Home of Washington will be the place of places in our country, let them see that, though we slay our forests, remove our dead, pull down our churches, remove from home to home till the "hearthstone" seems to have no resting place in America; let them see that we do know how to care for the Home of our Hero! Farewell!

Ladies, I return to your hands the office so long held—so long under another name—since December 2d, 1853.

Respectfully,

Ann Pamela Cunningham

Ann Pamela Cunningham

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S **MOUNT ★ VERNON**

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